

The National Future Farmer

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A Word With The Editor

Thirty years ago, a group of FFA members eagerly watched their mailbox for the first issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. They were the first subscribers who had paid for a magazine they had not seen. Their numbers grew and today—30 years later—FFA's national magazine reaches the home of every FFA member six times a year. Over 500,000 copies are printed and mailed each issue to a total readership of nearly two million readers.

FFA members support for *The National FUTURE FARMER* remains strong. In a recent survey 68.4 percent of FFA members said they would prefer to receive the magazine monthly. The same survey reported that 76.8 percent would be willing to pay more for a subscription in view of today's cost. In answer to the question of how much more, 16.4 percent said they were willing to pay \$2.00 more, 32.9 percent said \$1.00 more, 11.5 percent said 50 cents more and 39.2 percent said any reasonable amount to keep the magazine a quality and informative publication.

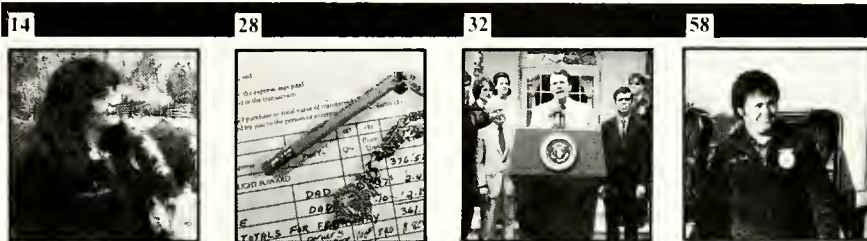
Over the years the staff has had one goal—to give FFA members the best magazine possible for the money available from advertising and subscription income to pay publishing costs. And money remains the limiting factor today. Like so many other businesses, rising costs put severe restraints on what the magazine can do. Fewer pages in each copy is perhaps the most noticeable cost-cutting step.

As the magazine begins its 31st year of service to FFA members, perhaps its biggest challenge is securing adequate financing for the future. Using the past 30 years as a guide, we believe FFA members want a national magazine and will continue to support one. *The National FUTURE FARMER* has become a part of the FFA—something like the blue and gold jacket or learning to say the FFA creed. So we think the future looks bright. The magazine staff looks forward to the challenge with the same enthusiasm as those FFA members who awaited their first issue 30 years ago.

Wilson Carnes

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Our Cover

Those FFA'ers attending the State Presidents' Conference this year gave a warm and enthusiastic greeting to President Reagan at the White House Rose Garden. Our story begins on page 32.

Cover Photo by Michael Wilson

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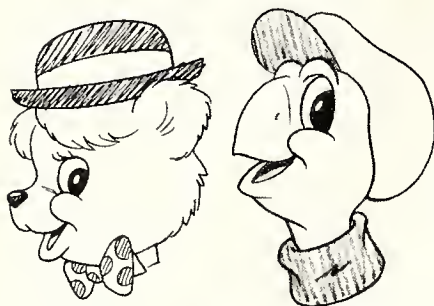
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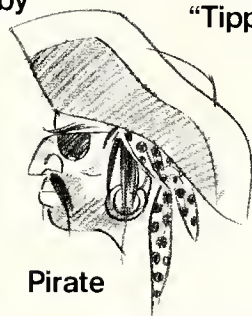
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The FFA News in Brief

APPROVAL OF EIGHT proficiency awards was just one of the decisions reached at the recent July, 1982, meeting of the National FFA Board of Directors. The new awards, to be initiated in 1985, include: Specialty Animal Production, Cereal Grain Production, Feed Grain Production, Forage Production, Oil Crop Production, Fiber Crop Production, Specialty Crop Production and Diversified Crop Production. The seven new crop proficiencies replace the existing Crop Production award, bringing total proficiency awards to 29. In a related matter approval was given to change the name of the Fish and Wildlife Management award to Wildlife Management award in 1985. The Board also approved a recommendation to the delegates at this year's convention that annual membership dues be increased from \$2.00 to \$2.50 in 1983-84.

NEW FFA FOUNDATION sponsors this fall include Burger Chef Corporation, sponsoring television star Melissa Gilbert's appearance at the 1982 national convention; DICKEY-john Corporation, sponsoring *BETWEEN ISSUES*, a newsletter for FFA advisors; K.T. Wiedemann Foundation, Inc., contributing to the scholarship fund; Union Oil Company of California Foundation and CEVA Laboratories, Inc., both contributing to the Foundation General Fund; and The Wrangler Brand of Blue Bell, Inc., sponsoring the 1982-83 FFA multi-image theme audio-visual show.

THIS YEAR'S FFA Theme show entitled "VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE—Educating Through Experience," will be available this year for chapter banquets as a 16mm film, filmstrip or single screen slide show, according to the FFA Information Department. Orders will be received through the National FFA Supply Service, but not until the show has premiered at this year's National FFA Convention. In addition, the 16mm film version of the show will be available this year as a rental from Venard Films Ltd., Box 1332, Peoria, Illinois 61654.

A NATIONAL SURVEY conducted by Glenn Luedke, director of advertising for *The National FUTURE FARMER*, revealed some interesting facts about our FFA readers. Seventy-three percent plan to continue their education after

high school graduation; of those, 43 percent plan to attend a four-year school. Surprisingly, almost 50 percent of those readers made their higher-education decision as a freshman in high school. In a related item, the survey found 70 percent of our FFA readers keep back issues of *The National FUTURE FARMER* indefinitely; 76 percent said they were willing to pay more for their subscription; and 68 percent said they would prefer receiving *The National FUTURE FARMER* on a monthly basis.

FFA MEMBERSHIP as of August, 1982 stands at 475,923 members, down approximately 7,000 from the 482,611 members in 1981. Of the 51 FFA associations (not counting affiliate chapter Virgin Islands and new affiliate District of Columbia), 38 showed a slight loss in membership, 12 associations showed a slight increase and 1 had no change. Top five states in FFA membership this year are: Texas, 59,728; Alabama, 24,849; Ohio, 20,846; Wisconsin a close fourth with 20,035; and California, 18,191. Incidentally, the California FFA Association takes top honors for most growth, adding 454 members to its listing from a year earlier. Florida was second, adding 382 members to its 1981 total.

NEW COMPUTER SERVICES at the National FFA Center are getting a workout since initial computer installation in March, says Manager George Verzagt. Word processing services have increased cash flow at the center while enabling national officers and staff members to work



more efficiently and productively. Order-Entry services for Supply Service orders are due to go "on-line" in January of 1983 and Mr. Verzagt says FFA chapters are already cooperating with the new system by using chapter account numbers assigned earlier this year.



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Akron, Colorado

I realize that printing a magazine like the *FUTURE FARMER* is difficult and that articles of interest and uniqueness may be hard to find; however, I feel these articles should be kept as agriculturally oriented as possible. In your recent issue in the "FFA

in Action" section, a vo-ag shop was being used to build a drag racing car with the vo-ag teacher as the driver. I must admit the story is catchy but I certainly question the validity of publicizing this kind of activity as if others should try it.

We in vocational agriculture are attempting to offer classes and instruction that are practical, vocational and, above all, agricultural and we certainly don't need for a publication as prestigious as the FFA magazine to portray this kind of activity as acceptable for an FFA chapter. With the money crunch on and vocational education under fire, we need to promote legitimate vo-ag programs, their needs and accomplishments and not the pseudo-programs riding on the name FFA simply for publicity's sake.

Charles C. Johnson

Medina, Ohio

For many years I have enjoyed reading *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. A key part of my reading has been the "FFA in Action" section which informs other FFA chapters and the general public as to the wide variety of activities in which FFA members are involved.

It is imperative that FFA, which is an integral part of agriculture education pro-

ject a very positive image to the general public. One of the areas in which we always must have this is supervised occupational experience.

As you stated in your editorial, agriculture is renewing its emphasis upon this very vital part of our programs. It is, therefore, appalling to see that a story was printed on page 44 of the August-September issue which detailed the construction of a drag racing car.

I would hope that in the future your magazine would choose not to print articles of this nature. Those of us on the staff at Medina County Joint Vocational School were certainly embarrassed by an article such as this appearing in our FFA magazine.

Alan Penn

Agriculture Supervisor

We knew when we chose this item it was not a typical vo-ag shop project and hope that most readers realized it was a unique hobby shared by the teacher and his students. It did seem to create some good advisor/student relationships.—Ed.

Indianapolis, Indiana

I have just read your excellent article on the FFA Foundation and wanted you to know how much we appreciate your kind words.

Having been involved in FFA when I was in high school, up to my present tenure as Chairman-Elect of the Foundation Board, FFA has been awfully important in my life and it's good to see the Foundation getting this kind of recognition.

Robert M. Book

Group Vice President

Elanco Products Company

We received several letters of thanks from agribusiness leaders for the FFA Foundation story.—Ed.

Bennington, Oklahoma

I would like to subscribe to *The National FUTURE FARMER*. I have been a member at Bennington High up until this year. I am 21 now and a senior in college at Southeastern Oklahoma. I was a State Farmer in 1979. I think being an FFA member has helped me a lot in all fields of my work. I am still living on the farm with my mom and dad and my mom sure does enjoy reading the magazine.

Troy Lee Sutton

Marshall, Virginia

I just completed my freshman year at Marshall High School and my first year as an FFA member and so far, it has been great! I can't even say how much I have learned from the FFA, but it is by far more than I have ever dreamed of learning in a one-year span. *The National FUTURE FARMER* is a super magazine, and I always look forward to reading it when it comes.

Bridgett Flynn

The National FUTURE FARMER

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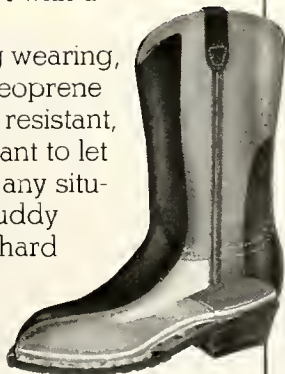


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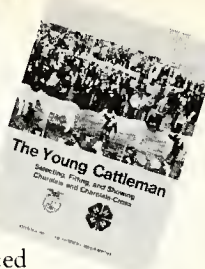
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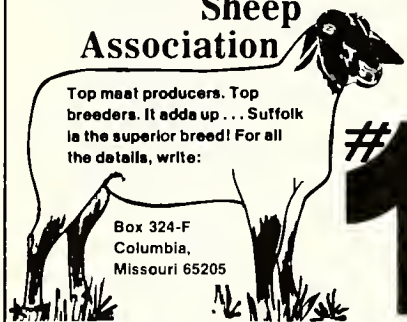
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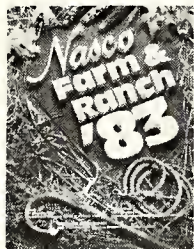
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Trends in Agriculture Looking Ahead

MOO JUICE UPDATE: It's not quite ready to market yet—but you may soon be able to buy unrefrigerated packaged milk products that have been "aseptically" processed—and store them for at least three months without refrigeration, says a USDA report. "When consumers want to use the milk, they can cool it and have a palatable product that tastes like fresh milk," says Edward T. Coughlin with USDA. "Aseptic" milk has been available for many years in some European countries where home refrigeration is not standard. It's made by processing milk at ultra-high temperatures for a very short time and then packaging it in special protective containers. One setback: the process and special packaging makes the product more expensive.

FARM INCOME: is low, but just how low is it? Net farm income, according to Dave Lins, University of Illinois agricultural economist, has gone from near 32.7 billion dollars in 1979 to 19.9 billion in 1980, and USDA preliminary estimates for 1981 don't look much better: 23 billion dollars. Adjust those figures for inflation, and farm income is now at about the same level as it was during the depression. However, the comparison is deceiving, because there are fewer farms today, hence the level of real income *per farm* is still well above depression levels.

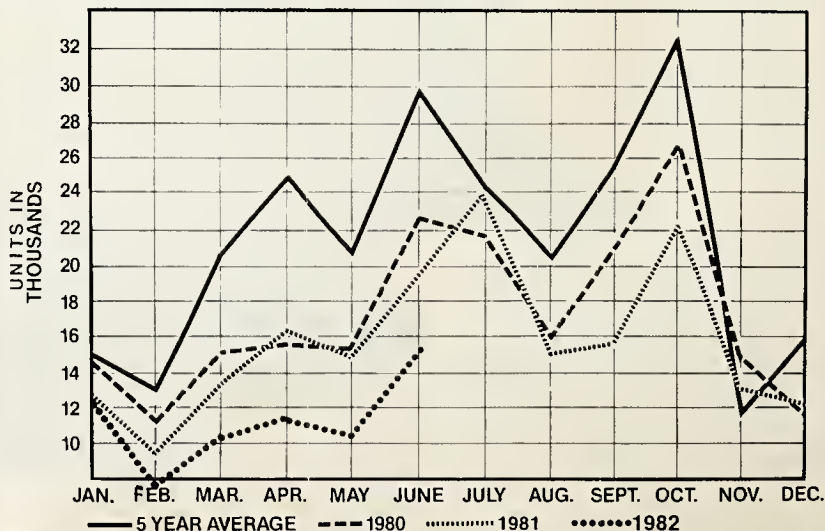
WHAT DOES IT COST to produce a choice steer? About \$800, say Cattle-Fax economists Topper

Thorpe and Tommy Beall in a recent issue of *Doane's Agricultural Report*. Based on this total, fed cattle must consistently sell at a price between \$70 and \$75 per cwt if all segments of the cattle industry are to remain profitable, the economists say. They also point out that fed cattle prices averaged over \$70 in only five of the last 24 months.

FARM MACHINERY dealers have had two poor years in a row, says a USDA report in *Agricultural Outlook*. Between 1979 and 1980, unit sales of two-wheel drive tractors dropped 15 percent, then dropped another 13 percent between 1980 and 1981. Unit sales of hay balers dropped 25 percent between 1979 and 1980, then another 3 percent the following year. (See chart below.) Machinery list prices, on the other hand, continued to rise, 11 to 12 percent in 1979-80 and again 8 to 9 percent in 1980-81. The poor sales reflect low farm incomes, but repair bills now account for about half as much as machinery purchases.

FARMERS ARE getting younger, according to figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Twelve years ago, the median age of a U.S. farmer was 53.1 years. But evidently that was the peak figure and since that time the median age has been consistently dropping. By 1980 the figure stood at 48.6 years. Twelve years ago, there were 265,000 farmers under age 35, but by 1980 the figure had reached 401,000 under age 35.

Below: Sales of farm equipment in the last three years have declined. Each group denotes sales of tractors over 40 h.p., combines, balers, forage harvesters, mower conditioners, manure spreaders and windrowers.



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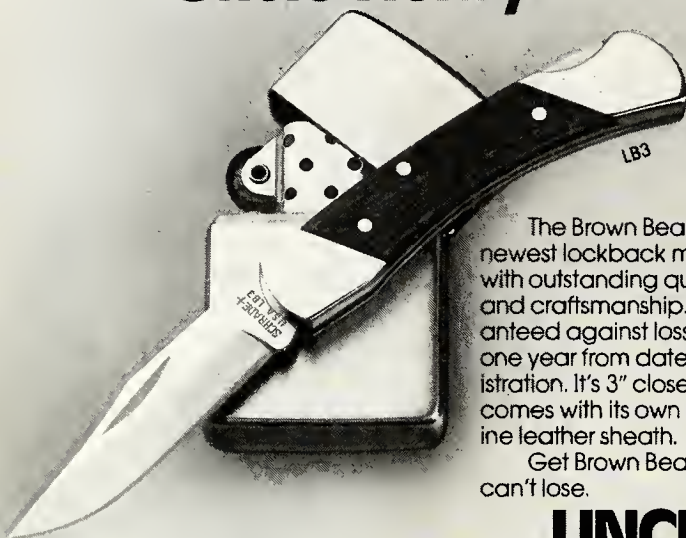


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Your Magazine Celebrates 30th Year

THIS issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* marks three decades of service to FFA members all across the country. We've launched our anniversary issue with a fresh new look which we hope you'll find attractive. But although our appearance is new, there's one thing that remains a steadfast tradition at your magazine, and that is our editorial policy of serving FFA members. We'll always hold to that principle, whether it be our 30th year or 300th.

But our service to you should go beyond your years in FFA. Ironically, this milestone comes at a time of severe farm recession, a time when both farmers and agribusinessmen seem to have little to look forward to. In spite of the gloom and doom, there still remains many bright opportunities to be found in agriculture. "I believe in the future of farming . . ." states the first line of the FFA creed, and your magazine strives to uphold this challenge. We shape each issue on the guidance of several purposes: to inspire, to inform, to recognize achievements; but *The National FUTURE FARMER's* greatest strength may be in how it serves you for what's ahead: your career in agriculture.

As a future farmer or agribusinessman, you'll be faced with many decisions, challenges and questions as you form your future goals and work toward them.

Fortunately, help is available, but only if you seek it. Your parents are one source; your FFA advisor another. And hopefully, we can also help make these questions easier as you speed toward your future.

We'll try to keep you informed of new developments; we'll listen to FFA members who are planning their careers—and better yet, we'll let former FFA'ers tell how they made their career decisions, and how those decisions worked out. And of course, we'll continue to write those stories which may interest you today, like how to make your banquet a smashing success, or the best ways to raise money for your FFA chapter.

That's what your magazine is all about—serving you now as FFA members, but serving you also for what lies ahead. It's a principle we've always been committed to, and we're as proud of it as you are of those blue jackets. We believe in the future of agriculture, because we believe that future is you. ●●●

The National FUTURE FARMER

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A Name

As a woman entering the world of production agriculture, Debbi Schell dreams of branding a name for herself as a rancher

WYOMING: a state where cattle outnumber people almost three to one, where frontier-like rangelands grow wild hay, making cattle or sheep a natural number one agricultural commodity. It's rugged land all right—and it takes a mighty rugged individual to handle the demands of a livestock ranching operation here in Wyoming.

But rugged doesn't always mean rough-and-tough—as Debbi Schell of Robertson, Wyoming, can attest. Debbi's ambition is to make a career out of the cattle business, which includes plans to take on partnership in the Schell family ranch after college.

Her goal characterizes a growing movement towards more women becoming involved in production agriculture and ranching—full time. Just as women stepped quietly into the membership rosters of the FFA, so now are women becoming an ever-present force in the world of production agriculture.

"Women didn't really *plan* to come back to the farm or ranch 20 years ago," Debbi says. "But nowadays you can be what you want and do what you want. There's less tradition." Her long, curly hair lifts silently in the Wyoming breeze as she speaks, her voice ringing with quiet determination.

"I've been around cattle all my life and it's something I've always wanted to do," she says. "I don't like just *trying* things. I always want to try harder so that I can be good at what I do."

Debbi's already built a good reputation for herself among fellow FFA members and local cattle breeders who've witnessed the 18-year-old's enthusiasm. When she's not pitching in on the family cow/calf operation she can usually be found working with her own herd of registered Hereford breeding bulls. Since she just started college, though, Debbi's had to put the breeding bull herd on hold. But her

Left, both cow and calf come running as Debbi distributes mineral blocks on the Schell family ranch.

The National FUTURE FARMER



For Herself

goal is to eventually build the herd up to 45 head before holding annual production sales.

"There's probably only seven or eight ranchers in this area that sell strictly bulls," she says. "Most sell calves."

"It's a growing thing," she adds. "You have to have good stock and do some showing where people can get out to see you—so they know your stock is quality." As a result, showing and fitting cattle have become second nature to the State Farmer degree holder.

Debbi's enthusiasm, though, is tempered by a strong mix of confidence and persistence. She knows it won't be easy. "To be in the bull market, you really have to build a name for yourself. You don't do that overnight," she admits. "We'll have to start doing really well at shows before people will recognize us as good Hereford breeders. But I think we can do it."

Debbi's experience with purebred animals has given her an appreciation for the value of good management skills.

"To sell bulls at a sale you have to keep exact weights, dates, weaning weights, average daily gains—specific numbers, just in case somebody wants to know," she says. "With a commercial herd it doesn't matter as much."

"Deb was a member of our state winning meats judging team two years ago," adds Alan Sulsur, vo-ag instructor at the Jim Bridger FFA Chapter where Debbi attended vo-ag classes. Debbi was also a member of the chapter livestock judging team, two experiences that help a young rancher, especially in understanding differences between competing breeds.

"Size is really important, especially with Herefords, which are a smaller breed," she explains. "They used to want short, fat Herefords for better meat, but we have to get bigger in order to compete with all these exotic breeds coming out." Debbi also says thickness, quality and muscle are factors to consider.

Cattle ranching in the great northwest does have some unusual aspects to it—for one thing, the only

real "crop" grown in the Schell's region is wild hay because land is too rocky to grow anything else. Since the Schell's 2,000-plus acres of rocky rangeland still can't meet the demands of the herd, Debbi's father and other ranchers form a co-op to lease land on the national forest—federal lands overseen by the Bureau of Land Management.

"People around here get in groups of five or six and run their cows up there," Debbi says gesturing toward higher ground. The ranchers pay for the grazing land through a permit which allows so many head of cattle per "AUM's"—animal unit months. The Schell's aum is 355 cows per four months, for example. Along with the other two ranchers in the co-op, that adds up to an additional 2,000 acres of rangeland for grazing.

"We probably graze cattle eight months out of the year here," says Advisor Sulsur. The Schell's cattle go on the "forest" in July and don't come back until October when the weather gets rough. Electric fences keep cattle from wandering, but Debbi says each herd of cows has a built-in "radar" that sends each back to their home ranch, even from five to ten miles away. The rest of the time cattle are fed baled hay, corn, oats and supplements.

Debbi's cattle know-how could test even the most skilled and experienced

ranchhand. She's proficient in artificial insemination and pregnancy testing techniques and can immunize, ear tag and tattoo with the best of them.

All those skills may sound commonplace, but by keeping a close up-to-date watch on efficiency factors, she's improved almost all operations on the ranch. Average daily gain has gone up each year since 1978; pounds feed fed per pound gain has dropped steadily. Weaning weights are higher and she's managed to improve the herd through new bloodlines by working with a number of different breeders in the area.

Advisor Sulsur says it best: "Debbi is an inspiring young person. She selects and culls her own breeding stock with the help of production records, performs all management decisions, marketing and is totally committed to her SOEP operation. Debbi is well on her way to achieving her objectives." This fall Debbi is taking one more step toward her future career in cattle: attending the University of Wyoming, majoring in agriculture. With her additional training, confidence from her vo-ag instructor and experiences at home and in vo-ag, Debbi's dream to make a name for herself in the cattle industry may be well on its way toward becoming reality. ●●●

Below, Debbi and Advisor Sulsur discuss the breeding bull program.



Regional Star Farmers, Star Agribusinessmen: FFA's Best

Come convention time, one of these Stars will be honored with the title Star Farmer of America; another, Star Agribusinessman of America. Now, meet the finalists.

THEY are the best.

Rising to the top of a boundless group of nearly 800 American Farmer degree candidates, eight FFA members from across the nation have been selected as 1982 regional Star Farmers and Star Agribusinessmen. They were selected as representatives of the best FFA has to offer in the fields of agribusiness and production agriculture.

The eight Star candidates were selected by National FFA Officers and Board of Directors based on their achievements in agriculture and agribusiness. As regional winners, each receives \$500 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc. And by coming this far, each candidate also earns the right to compete for the title of Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America.



Tom Lichty

Central Region

Tom Lichty of Monroe Center, Illinois, has been named Central Region Star Agribusinessman for his entrepreneurial skills in the landscape/nursery business.

The 19-year-old son of Gary and Harriet Lichty, Tom became his own boss at the age of 12 when he began his own lawn-mowing business. By the end of his first year of high school, Tom was mowing over 32 lawns, preparing the baseball diamonds for baseball games for the Monroe Center Park District and was earning additional income by plowing snow for 13 community residents.

As Tom progressed through his vo-

ag program, he took on additional part-time employment as a salesman for a bolt company and became a welder for a local company. With the income from his various jobs, Tom enrolled at Kishwaukee College in Malta, Illinois, in the ornamental horticulture program and this past year was recognized as the outstanding horticulture student as he completed his two-year degree program.



Kevin Robinson

Kevin Robinson will be making a repeat performance as an FFA winner when he walks onstage as Central Region Star Farmer.

It's not everyone who can achieve national FFA recognition, but Kevin has done it—three times. His first national honors came in 1979 when he won the national proficiency award for Diversified Livestock Production. A year later he returned to the convention stage in Kansas City as the FFA's national Crop Production Winner.

The 21-year-old son of Harold and Emily Robinson of Eskridge, Kansas, Kevin started his supervised occupational experience program with three head of cattle, 107 head of hogs and 46 acres of crops. Since then, he has expanded his operation to include a 890-head commercial cow-calf and feeder setup, a 212-head swine unit and 1,320 acres of milo, wheat, hay, sargo, soybeans and corn.



Clay Christensen

Western Region

Clay Christensen of Thomas, Oklahoma, has successfully combined his experience as an agribusinessman, farmer and rancher to become the Western Region Star Agribusinessman of America. Clay, the 20-year-old son of Jim and Jo Christensen, earned the honor for his successful and varied experiences in his family's farming and agribusiness operations.

Since enrolling in vo-ag, Clay has taken on a great deal of the management responsibilities in the family's various enterprises. Clay's agribusiness operation consists of 25 percent interest in Christensen Implement, 10 percent interest in Stockman's Supply, Inc., as well as a member-employee of the South Canadian Coop, Inc., working as an assistant manager trainee.

Clay's production enterprises consist of swine, cattle, milo, wheat, barley and oats and he owns 253 acres of the land he farms.

In 1979 Clay was elected as a vice president of the Oklahoma State FFA Association and in 1980 was selected as a national FFA proficiency award winner in Agricultural Sales and Service.

Building a dairy operation from scratch isn't easy. But **Gregory Krush** of Kersey, Colorado, has done it—and made it pay off.

Gregory, a 20-year-old member of the Eaton-Highland FFA Chapter, is a former national FFA Dairy

(Continued on Page 18)

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Stars

(Continued from Page 16)

Production award winner. After listening to the Western Region Star Farmer's success story, it's easy to see why: Gregory started with literally nothing, except an intense interest in the dairying business. He had no



Greg Krush

access to a home-owned dairy from which to base his supervised occupational experience program. But through a local dairyman who employed Krush's mother Ann, he was hired to milk and feed dairy cows.

Eventually Greg saved enough money to invest in a registered Holstein heifer, his first SOE project. he slowly accumulated the money and skills needed to improve his own enterprise. By Gregory's senior year in high school, he had built his herd to 13 head of outstanding Holsteins which attained the highest DHIA herd average in the state.

After high school graduation, Greg rented property to start his own dairy. He completely renovated an old dairy barn, repaired and built corrals and constructed a new cattle shed for his herd.

Eastern Region

Hard work has paid off for 21-year-old **Elmer Zimmerman**, recently recognized as Eastern Region Star Agribusinessman. The son of Delbert and Ruth Zimmerman of Lowellville, Ohio, Elmer enrolled in the Mahoning County Joint Vocational School after



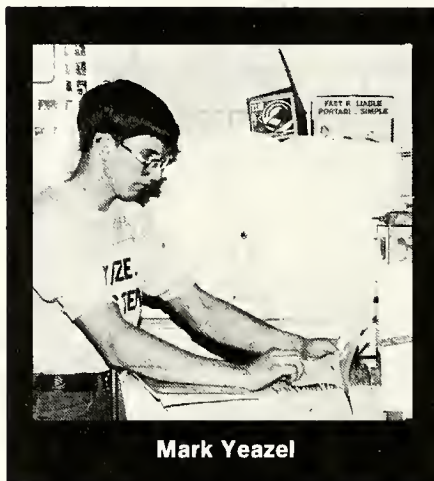
Elmer Zimmerman

he discovered his interest in agriculture and recently gained the opportunity to purchase a dairy equipment installation business.

As a Greenhand, Elmer began work for Paul Zimmerman (unrelated), a businessman in the community who owned and managed a dairy equipment installation business. He began with simple tasks but his employer soon recognized Elmer's interest and enthusiasm for his work and delegated major projects for Elmer to oversee.

He continued to work at the business on the weekends, breaks and summer after he enrolled at the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio, where he completed a two-year program in Materials Handling. Upon graduation in June of 1981, Elmer returned to work full time and began buying the business.

Holstein cattle, plus the latest agricultural technology, have made a winning combination for Eastern Region Star Farmer **Mark Yeazel**. A good mixture of both has helped the 21-year-old Eaton, Ohio, FFA



Mark Yeazel

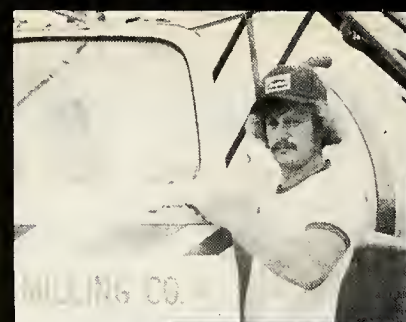
member to build his agricultural production enterprise into a large and profitable partnership for himself, his father and his brother.

The son of Robert and Jane Yeazel, Mark owned 90 Holstein cows and 10 acres of crops at the beginning of his vo-ag/FFA involvement. Since that time, his enterprise has grown to include 188 head of Holstein cows, 335 purebred Duroc hogs and 210 acres of hay and corn.

Mark's farming operation is technology-intensive, as he uses the latest scientific tools to increase his dairy herd production. Careful attention to ration formulation, hand mating and a rigid culling system have helped increase his herd's average milk production by almost 3,000 pounds in the last year.

Southern Region

Tracy Vicary has gotten where he is today in agribusiness by setting goals early in his career. One of Tracy's goals became reality when he was recently recognized as FFA's Star



Tracy Vicary

Agribusinessman from the Southern Region.

The 21-year-old son of Walter and Marie Vicary of Martin, Tennessee, Tracy has always had a deep interest in farming and agribusiness. Tracy's family didn't have a farm large enough for him to pursue his interest, so he began work at a nearby dairy.

Tracy had one beef calf as his SOE program through his first year of vo-ag. From that beginning and from using his earnings from the dairy and other agribusiness jobs, he has built his SOEP to several acres of wheat, corn, soybeans and milo. In addition to the crops, Tracy also began a swine operation which today boasts 54 sows and over 60 head of feeder pigs.

George Clemmer represents the fourth generation of the Clemmer family to have farmed near Mosheim, Tennessee. George is 21 years old. Since he was eight, he and his mother, Ona, have farmed alone.

When his father died in 1970, the Southern Region Star Farmer shouldered a big responsibility. It became his job to help his mother manage his family's 230-acre crop and livestock operation. Today, it's evident he's done the job well.

The Clemmers own a 114-unit-cow-calf operation, which George continually tries to improve. He records weight gains for all his cattle and practices selective culling to upgrade overall quality. George also follows a strict livestock health program.

The family maintains a diversified cropping program, raising corn, soybeans, hay and tobacco. George uses minimum tillage practices on most of the cropland and takes care of all chemical calibration and application himself. ...



George Clemmer

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Marines

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Running On Empty

Part II of our series on agricultural water explores conservation choices, water rights—and takes a look into the next century.

By Den Gardner

*Editor's note: Water is a precious natural resource. Unfortunately, it's one that is often taken for granted. Recent news of shrinking water tables beneath some key farm states may have drastic implications for the future of agriculture. In our August-September issue, Part I of **Running On Empty** focused on the importance and history of irrigation in U.S. agriculture. In this issue, Part II focuses on rising energy costs, water rights—and a look into the next century. Will dryland farming make a comeback? Read on.*

WHILE there's little doubt that water supplies are decreasing in this country, irrigated areas of the country aren't expected to decrease in significant amount until the next century, according to Gordon Sloggett of the National Resources Economics Division, Economic Research Service of USDA.

Sloggett says groundwater levels are decreasing in 11 major irrigating states, but rising energy prices "will likely be a more serious constraint to expanded groundwater irrigation than declining levels of groundwater." Those 11 states account for 90 percent of the acres irrigated from groundwater.

Energy Costs Substantial

Rising energy prices cannot be overlooked. Take the High Plains of Texas, for example. James Hull, manager of Deaf Smith County Electric Cooperative, is predicting a large number of farmers will abandon irrigating by 1983. Why? It's not for lack of water.

Electric power rates for irrigation are expected to go up about 50 percent this October. The cost there has already

doubled over the past several years. Hull says October's jump will be only the beginning of continuing price hikes foreseen by the electric coop.

In the Pacific Northwest, Mark Madison, agricultural engineering consultant for Eastern Oregon Farming Company, says energy costs have risen 82 percent this year. "There's no way some of these farmers will be able to stay in business unless they make changes to some low pressure systems, modify existing pumps, and manage and monitor water consumption," Madison says. Adds Robert Longenbaugh, former Colorado State University water specialist: "Colorado may some day have adequate water supplies simply because it will have become too expensive to pump the water out of the ground." A rural electric coop official in the Texas High Plains puts it this way: "Farmers will run out of money before they run out of water here."

Mr. Sloggett says farmers on the Texas High Plains saw electrical pump energy costs rise \$4 per acre-foot annually from 1973 to 1979. "Dropping groundwater levels, averaging two feet per year, contributed only 20 cents to that annual increase," he says.

Mr. Sloggett's USDA report said declining water levels lead to increased pumping costs and the eventual depletion of the groundwater. "Only one major irrigated area (some counties in the Texas High Plains) is suffering from groundwater depletion, although some isolated smaller areas, such as west-central Kansas, have essentially depleted groundwater," the report says. But analysts still see sufficient quantities available beyond 2020, even in the Texas High Plains.

But reports of the Ogallala aquifer drying up in the Texas High Plains

have been suggested for many years. At one time it was estimated the Ogallala would dry up in the early 1980s. Noted hydrologist Dr. Jay Lehr, executive director of the National Water Well Association, says the High Plains will have water for 30 more years, maybe longer.

"You cannot irrigate indiscriminately," Lehr told a Chicago conference on groundwater supplies. "Today, it is a matter of using methods and equipment that assure crops get the necessary moisture while runoff is controlled and evaporation is reduced. The reforms instituted in Texas have made a major difference. Others can learn an important lesson from what has been done there."

Conservation Choices

In 1979 the Texas Soil Conservation Service formed an irrigation management team of three specialists to help growers improve their irrigation systems. The group works with county SCS units to make efficiency checks with mobile trailers where instruments measure water flow, pump efficiency, evaporation, penetration and other factors right in the field.

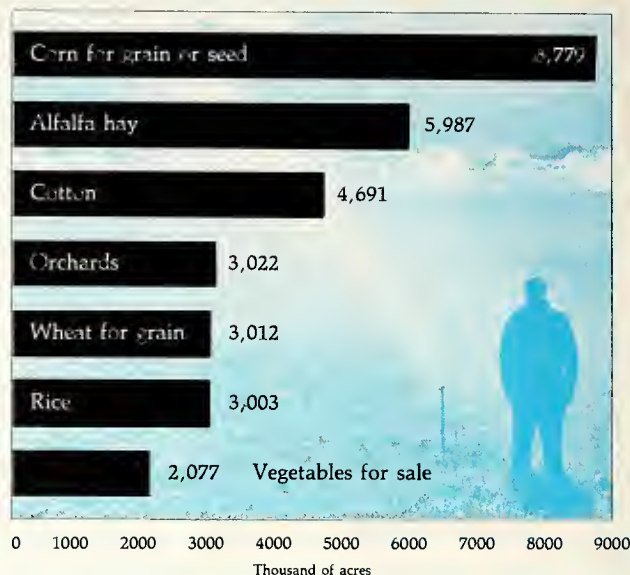
Any wasteful practice is spotted and recommendations to improve the system are suggested.

Another change in the Texas High Plains is the move away from corn to grain sorghum, or cotton, and sometimes even soybeans. All three crops need considerably less water than corn.

Touted as the biggest breakthrough is the increased efficiency of center pivot systems. Five years ago there were almost no low pressure sprinklers. These high pressure pivots operated at 55 to 60 psi. Today, many are being replaced by low pressure systems that use 35 to 40 psi or less.

(Continued on Page 35)

Irrigated Acreage of Harvested Crops (1978 statistics)





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Tight management skills and advanced breeding techniques are one reason why this North Dakota cattleman can claim . . .

A

By Michael Wilson

GREG Oien takes his eyes away from the Simmental steer in the family feedlot just long enough to spot the syringe he's been searching for. Scooping it gently into his hands, he pauses and gestures toward the steer.

"We're always searching for that genetically superior animal," he says, reflecting on his first interest in Simmentals. "I was impressed with the way these calves grew and with the kind of disposition they had." His voice trails off in thought, but the glint in his eye says you're onto his favorite subject: purebred Simmental cattle.

Greg, from the Crosby, North Dakota, FFA Chapter, owns and manages a top herd of Simmental cattle in partnership with his family and a large Simmental cattle breeder in Canada. Greg's goal is to build the herd to 60 head of purebred animals—and he's reaching the goal through modern breeding techniques like artificial insemination and embryo transfer programs. What's more, he's handling most of those high-tech breeding operations himself. So when Greg talks, you begin to get the feeling you're listening to an expert in the



Photos by Author

Above, vaccination time on the Oien ranch, as Advisor "Butch" Haugland and Greg's father Elwood lend a helping hand. At right, Greg handles feeding chores.



Simmental Success Story

cattle business—an expert at age 19.

“Artificial insemination is really the only way to get the top breeding characteristics into your herd.” He says as the hot September sun sends a sparkle through his sandy blonde hair. “You get a bigger selection of sires for your herd, bigger selection of genetic qualities.

“I like to breed for calving ease, weaning weight and yearling weight,” he adds. “Both AI and the embryo transfer program really further our goal of superior genetic backgrounds.”

Embryo transfers, one of the most advanced technologies in cattle breeding today, allows the best of a cow's traits to be passed on several times, rather than in the few calves she may have through her lifetime. Most cattlemen agree embryo transfers will do for superior female cows what artificial insemination did for superior bulls. By transferring embryos from superior females into less-valued “donor” cows breeders free up the superior cow for more “crops” of eggs with desirable traits.

Greg believes both breeding techniques will increase production efficiency. That's why he's currently artificially inseminating 35 of the 50 head of Simmental cows in his herd, using the semen, or “semen rights” from eight genetically superior bulls.

Greg also has eight donor cows in the embryo transplant program. “Three of the eight females are at a transplant center in Rollette, North Dakota,” he says. “The other five are here on the farm where we are doing the transfer directly from donor to recipient. We have 24 Holstein recipients to carry the eggs from a flush done recently.”

Greg's donor cows are no ordinary animals, either. For example, one of the four cows he owns half interest in with Ross L7 Simmentals was imported from France. She was a daughter owned by Rio Vista International in San Antonio, Texas, a premier company in researching high-tech breeding methods.

Embryo transplant specialists from Big Sky Genetics in Billings, Montana, do the actual transfer operations, says Greg. A typical session will yield about six to eight eggs per cow, but Greg says a recent “flush” yielded 17 eggs from one cow. Those eggs will be transplanted in one of the 24 Holsteins.

Greg has always been an avid cattle shower, earning several state and

“Artificial insemination is really the only way to get the top breeding characteristics into your herd,” Greg says. “Both AI and the embryo transfer program really further our goal of superior genetic backgrounds.”

county trophies for his prize animals. In fact, cattle showing is part of the reason Greg was able to establish close business ties to a prestigious cattle breeder from Canada.

“When I was showing at the state fair as a junior I became acquainted with Brian Ross of Ross L7 Simmentals,” Greg explains. “I realized the high percentage of Simmentals that were being raised in foreign countries, and I figured that's how it would be in the United States. I figured there should be a good demand for Simmentals. Brian told me about his production sale, and I thought it would be a good place to get a start in the business—so dad and I attended.”

The Ross operation, located just 15 miles north of the Canadian border and 21 miles from the Oien farm, has a crucial part of Greg's purebred Simmental goal. Since that first meeting, Greg has purchased over 35 Ross animals. He owns semen rights to several top-notch Ross bulls and half interest in four of the eight donor cows in the embryo transplant program.

Through close ties to Ross L7 Simmentals, Greg found himself in company with one of the most

prestigious Simmental breeders in Canada. The Ross company proved that recently by winning top honors as “Premier Breeder” at the Canadian Agribition this year.

Greg's family has also played a big part in the Simmental success story, for in order to make those initial cattle purchases Greg had to have cash. He was able to secure two loans, one from the local bank, the other from his father Elwood, who in turn, receives a share of the calf crop. And when Greg attended a nearby college last year his brother Doug, already a full-time farmer, stepped in to handle feeding chores in his absence.

Greg's financial decisions, plus his love for the breed have paid off over the last three years. He manages to pay off his debt load in part through his hay and cropping program. But he's now planning to make up a great deal of it through his own bull production sale next spring, selling mostly percentage Simmentals to local breeders. What's more, he's been asked to consign a select number of blue-ribbon cows to a Ross production sale coming up in December—an offer sent out to select few breeders.

Greg says he plans to continue holding back heifers for breeding until he reaches his goal of 60 cows, “then leveling off for awhile.” When he's not devoting time managing the herd, he finds time to serve as vice president of the newly formed North West Cattlemen's Association, formed specifically to promote the beef industry. Clearly, Greg's enthusiasm and dedication to the industry makes him ideally suited for the position. The enthusiasm might also induce Greg toward expanding the herd someday also.

“If everything works out, I might raise it another 20 head to 80 cows,” he says, choosing his words carefully. But then a sly smile runs across his face. “Sometimes dad thinks I'm nuts,” Greg chuckles. “But I think he believes in what I'm doing.”

•••



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Why Hunting Accidents Happen

THE common thread that runs through practically all accident reports—whether they involve accidents in the home, on the highway or in the field—is that almost all are preventable, that carelessness or thoughtlessness are the prime causes. Though hunting has an enviable safety record, accidents do occur each season. But most of them could have been avoided.

Many accidents happened under the following circumstances. In each case, the outcome could have been avoided if the basic rules of firearm safety had been followed.

— While loading and unloading a firearm

Whether loading or unloading your firearm, always have the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Firearms should never be loaded or unloaded in a vehicle. If you are unfamiliar with the proper loading or unloading procedures of your firearm, read the instruction booklet and get proper instruction before you go hunting.

— While plinking

Whether you are by yourself, or plinking with your friends, carefully observe all proper gun handling rules. Make sure you have a clear line of fire, and never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first. Never shoot at a hard, flat surface or the surface of water. And be doubly sure that you have a safe backstop free of rocks.

— During suspected horseplay with a loaded firearm

There is never an excuse for careless gun handling. Whether loaded or unloaded, always treat a gun with respect. Never point your gun at anything you do not want to shoot. Avoid alcoholic beverages both before and during shooting.

— When out of sight of the shooter

Not only must you be sure of your target but also what's beyond it. A deer standing on top of a hill or a ridge may give you a clear shot, but what's behind that hill or ridge? A house, other hunters or maybe a busy road? Remember, even a .22 rimfire bullet can travel well over a mile.

— When covered by shooter swinging on game

Whether hunting waterfowl or upland game, make sure everyone in your group knows his safe zone of fire. Safe zones of fire are simply those areas in which a shot may be fired without endangering others or damaging property.

— When carrying a gun

There is no one way to carry a gun that is safe in every field situation. During the day, it may be necessary to change how you are carrying your gun, depending on where other shooters are and the terrain. Carrying your gun across your arm is comfortable when walking through an open field, but it can be unsafe if someone is beside you. The important thing is always to know where your gun is pointing.

These are a few typical circumstances and situations in which hunting accidents occur each year. In each category, accidents could have been avoided if reasonable caution, safe gun handling and proper hunting procedures had been exercised. The point can't be emphasized enough, but neither can this one: Whether it is carelessness, a lapse in concentration or a lack of safety knowledge that causes the accident, the outcome is always the same. ●●●

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How to Avoid Record Keeping Hassles

Although record keeping is a common chore among vo-ag students, the skills aren't always easy to master. Here are four easy steps to help eliminate problems and make your record keeping efforts worthwhile.

APPLICATION FOR
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AND AGRIBUSINESS
OF AMERICA
application before filling out any part of it
Farmer Degree

EXPENSES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1981

allows
date the expense was incurred
cribe the expense item.
son or enterprise to whom the expense was paid.
e number of units involved in the transaction
ie price paid per unit
he total cash paid on day of purchase or total value of tr... listed in Column (3).
he amount of money owed by you to the person or en...

(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Kind of Expense	Qty.	Price/Unit	Total Cash	Total
			376.58	42.5
			2.44	

By Janet Soorholtz

GEORGE Sanders has a problem: he wants to earn his State Farmer degree this year.

You'd think that wouldn't pose much of a problem for a guy like George—a guy who's president of his FFA chapter, a good student, part-owner of 300 acres of prime farmland.

That's what George thought too—until he started to fill out his degree application.

Now he's finding it takes more than leadership skills, high school activities and a good SOE program to earn recognition. It also takes a good award application backed by accurate, complete program records—*records which he doesn't have.*

George Sanders may be a fictitious person, but the predicament facing him is quite real, quite frustrating, and quite common among FFA members. If you've ever stared for three hours at a balance sheet that won't balance, if you've ever been baffled by terms like "accelerated depreciation," you're not alone. Thousands of FFA members have struggled with the same record keeping problems.

But though they may be a bit tricky to understand, SOE records are still one of the most important tools you can use to build an agricultural career. If you want to compete for FFA awards, your records can make or break your chances of winning. And whether your goal is a chapter beef award, state honors in ag processing, or an American Farmer degree, there are some steps you can take now to make sure that, come contest time, you don't end up like our friend George.

STEP ONE: Plan a long range SOE strategy. If George had started thinking about applying for his State Farmer degree four years ago instead

of just last month, his problem might never have developed. Such long term planning is essential for anyone who's out to improve his or her SOE program.

So even if you think it'll be three years before you apply for a state swine proficiency award, don't wait three years to prepare for it. Ask your FFA advisor to show you the award application now. See what type of information the form requires, then gear your record-keeping system toward supplying it. For example, if the application asks for figures on average returns per pound of pork produced, make sure you compute that efficiency factor for all swine projects through the years.

You might also practice filling out the award application early, perhaps at the end of each year when you close out your accounts. You may be a bit overwhelmed at first, but you'll soon see that the application form isn't as complicated as it is thorough. And a trial run at transferring data from record book to award application will make applying for the "real thing" much easier.

STEP TWO: Set up and follow a record keeping routine. Another of George's downfalls was failing to plan a regular time each week to record his feed costs, equipment expenses, weaning weights and hours worked.

Establishing a routine may seem trivial. But, says 1980 national proficiency award winner Bart Davis, it's not—at least, not if you ever hope to compile a complete set of records.

"If things aren't written down, there's just no way you're going to remember them," he says. "The hardest part for me, as far as records are concerned, is just taking the time

each day to write down what I need to write down. It's just a self discipline kind of thing."

And that self discipline can save you a lot of headaches when it comes time to apply for awards.

Two-time national proficiency award winner Clint Albin says, "When you start to fill out your application and you have to come up with all these numbers, it can be quite depressing if you don't know what to put there. By keeping records a little bit at a time, it makes it a lot easier to just grab the data. And that still keeps you fired up and excited, rather than having to spend 24 hours to try to figure out where 70 thousand two-inch cups of ferns went to four years ago."

STEP THREE: Learn the basis of farm records. Unfortunately for George, he never paid much attention to his ag teacher on the days farm management or financial planning were discussed. If you've gained some classroom training in those areas, you're a step ahead. But even so, some farm accounting principles can be confusing. Bob Seefeldt, FFA program specialist for awards, has identified a few problem areas commonly misunderstood by students:

INVENTORIES: Most FFA award applications ask for a beginning and an ending inventory figure for each year you conduct an SOE program.

The beginning inventory for any given year should be the same as the ending inventory from the preceeding year. For example, if the December 31, 1981, ending inventory for your turf and landscape management program is \$9,400, then the January 1, 1982, beginning inventory for that program

(Continued on Page 30)

CLAAS and FFA

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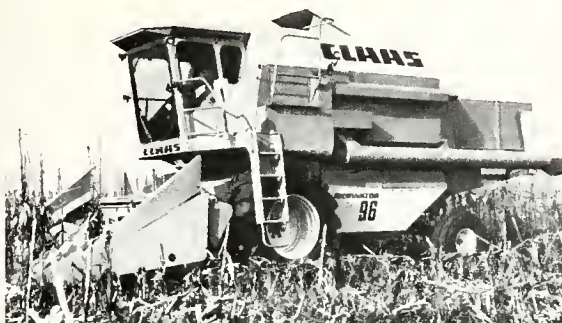
Earlier this year, we became the newest American combine manufacturer, with the opening of our new assembly plant and North American headquarters at Columbus, Indiana. CLAAS of America offers four combine models and three big round balers.

And, because we know where the future of American agriculture lies, we're working with organizations like FFA to help develop the farm leaders of tomorrow. Last year, our company awarded three \$2,500 scholarships to agricultural university students.

This year, CLAAS of America is happy to support FFA as sponsor of the U.S. delegation to the III World Conference in Agricultural Education in West Germany, home of our parent company.

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to do...it's one more way we're working to build a future on America's farms.



The Dominator 96 combine



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COLUMBUS, INDIANA 47201



The new CLAAS of America assembly plant at Columbus, Indiana

Record keeping

(Continued from Page 28)

must still be \$9,400.

NET WORTH: Total assets minus total liabilities equals net worth—it's as simple as that. Assets include everything you own which has a marketable value; liabilities include all debt obligations.

Most FFA award applications require you to list assets in three parts: income earned through your SOE program, income earned from other sources, and income derived through gifts and inheritances. *An increase in net worth for any year can't be more than the sum total of those three amounts.*

DEPRECIATION: Depreciation is the decrease in value which your machinery, buildings and other inventory items undergo while you own and use them. For instance, suppose you buy a new pickup truck for \$10,000. The next year you trade it in to a used car dealer for \$8,500. That \$1,500 difference between the

purchase price and the trade-in value of your pickup represents a year's worth of normal wear and tear on the truck; in other words, one year of use has caused the truck's value to depreciate \$1,500.

There are various methods, or schedules, for computing depreciation. But regardless of your mathematical method, you must still understand one basic concept: *depreciation is an expense.* While your combine is parked in the machine shed this winter, it will cost you money because it will be getting older. That cost can be deducted from your income taxes as a business expense, but must also be listed as a business expense on any FFA award application.

STEP FOUR: Ask questions. If George had just taken the initiative to ask a few questions about parts of his record book he didn't understand, he might have been able to earn his State Farm degree. But he didn't bother to tell his FFA advisor he was having trouble with depreciation schedules. He never asked for help when he was closing his 1980 accounts. And four years ago as a Greenhand, he didn't go

to his advisor when he wasn't exactly sure about the difference between an asset and a liability.

Four years of unasked questions have added up to a lot of bookkeeping errors. And unfortunately for George, it's too late to correct them now.

But the same thing doesn't have to happen to you.

The intricacies of SOE record keeping can't be taught during one vo-ag class lecture; they can't be explained through a short magazine article. But they can be explained by a vo-ag teacher, parent, or banker who will sit down and *show* you where to list fees, costs, how to compute efficiency factors and what to include in a net worth statement. A wealth of information about record keeping is within your reach—if you'll only ask some questions.

And once you find some answers, you'll also find opportunities. With a solid background in SOE record keeping, you'll have the opportunity to win FFA awards. And perhaps even more important, you'll have the tools you need to build your enterprise into a profitable business and successful career. ●●●

National Workshop Puts Accent On SOE

Idea-exchanging, Problem-solving and hands-on experience helped make it a profitable week for vo-ag leaders.

NATIONAL FFA Advisor Bryon Rawls called it "Potential of the most important national agricultural education meetings ever held." And from the reaction of those in attendance, he wasn't far from wrong.

More than 200 agricultural education leaders from 45 states turned out for the first-of-its-kind National Supervised Occupational Experience Workshop in Washington, D.C., in July under the theme "Bridging the Gap" between education and employment. The workshop, sponsored by DEKALB AgResearch, kicked off a renewed emphasis on SOE programs.

Throughout a week of activity, vo-ag leaders discussed and identified concerns and needs in implementing SOE programs on both state and local levels. The true spirit of the workshop was exemplified in the prolific exchange of ideas among almost all in attendance, through both large and small group discussions.

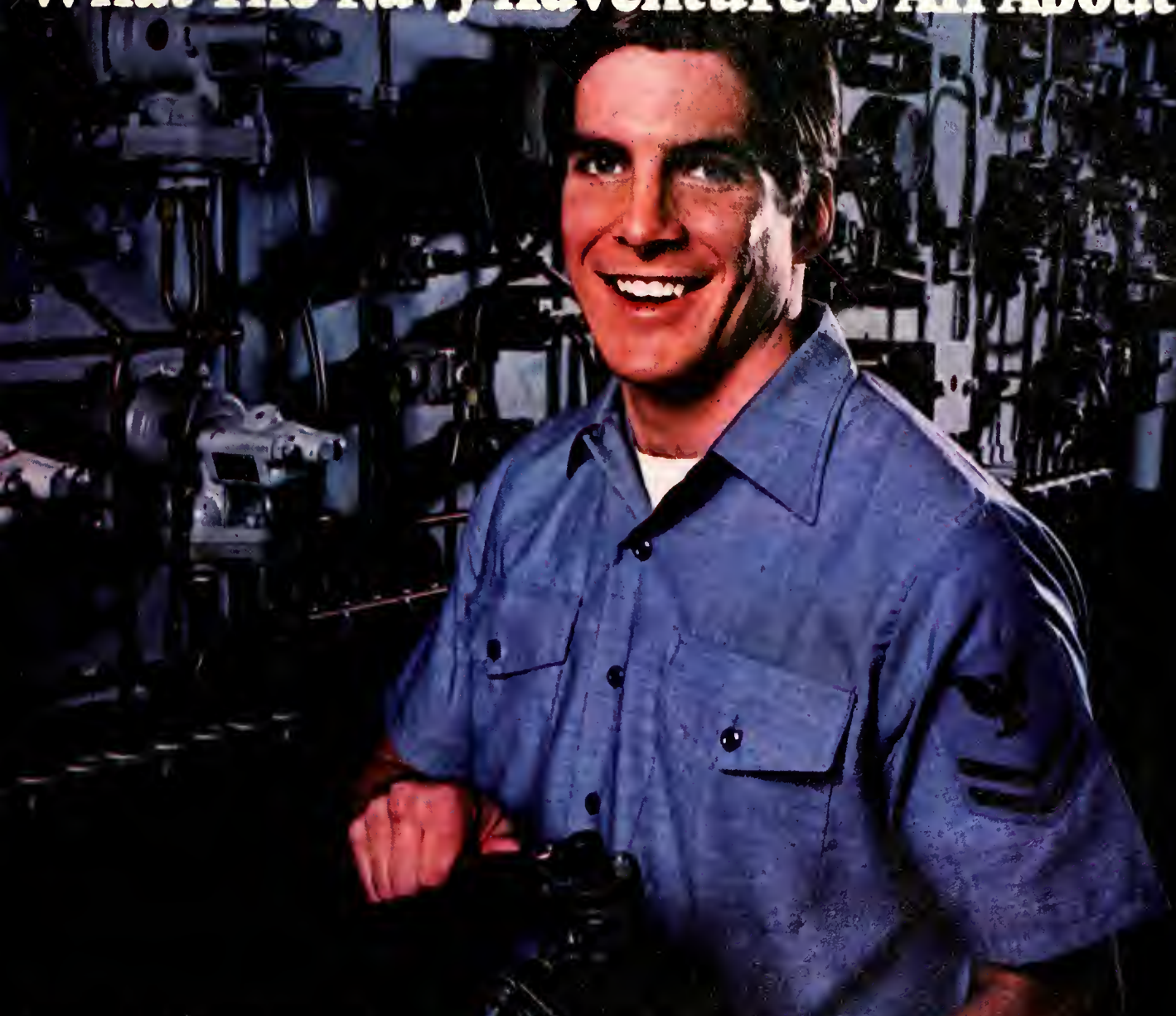
The idea behind the workshop's theme "Bridging the Gap" is to bridge the gap between *wanting* a job and actually securing a job, through effective "hands-on" experience in an SOE program. An SOE program helps students become more employable by developing skills necessary in the agriculture industry.

Workshop participants took a field trip to Pennsylvania where they toured Victor F. Weaver, Inc., Sperry New Holland and visited area vo-ag departments. The group was joined by State Presidents' Conference attendees at the White House visit and at the premiere showing of a new

film "SOE—Bridging the Gap." The "SOE Review" daily newsletter kept workshop participants informed of daily events, new SOE promotional items, trends in vocational instruction and more ideas from workshop participants.



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"America Needs Your Leadership"

A Presidential visit and special dedication ceremonies for the New FFA Hall of Achievement highlighted a memorable week of leadership training at this year's State Presidents' Conference

By Michael Wilson

SUDDENLY, the hot July weather was forgotten. The Surge to shed the blue corduroy jackets was gone, as the President of the United States stepped briskly from his adjacent oval office. And as President Reagan spoke, his words made FFA members gathered at the White House more and more proud of those blue jackets on their backs.

"America needs your kind of leadership," the President said, pausing briefly to let his words sink in. His eyes quickly panned the audience of 300 FFA state officers, vo-ag teachers and teacher educators, all invited to the Rose Garden in conjunction with the annual State Presidents' Conference.

"America also needs your contributions in farming and agribusiness," President Reagan asserted. "Through the vocational agriculture program . . . the FFA has prepared millions of young people for their careers."

President Reagan capped his White House address by quoting Cicero: "Of all occupations from which gain is secured, there is none better than agriculture, nothing more productive, nothing sweeter, nothing more worthy of a free man . . .

"And you of the FFA fulfill that ideal."

Following the President's speech, National FFA Officers presented Mr. Reagan with a plaque commemorating the White House visit and bestowed upon him one of FFA's highest honors: the Honorary American Farmer degree.

"Moments before, Secretary of Agriculture John Block addressed the White House group.

"You've got a great opportunity ahead of you as you pursue your interests in agriculture," said Mr. Block, a former FFA officer from Illinois. "It's an enormous industry with tremendous importance. I've been to countries around the world and I will assure you, as you travel, U.S. agriculture is indeed the envy of the world—it is absolutely number one."

Secretary of Education Terrel Bell welcomed the FFA entourage on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education, describing how the FFA organization "has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of youth."

"I think that FFA is what has made American agriculture the greatest industry, the pride of the world and the great strength of our country," said the Secretary.

"The motivation, the opportunity to apply what you learn, to apply scientific research . . . and to get plenty of opportunity for reward for effort . . . all of that belongs in the FFA program."

The White House visit highlighted a week of special moments for one of the largest groups of vocational agriculture leaders ever assembled in the nation's capital. Over 100 state officers from 51 FFA associations convened for the State Presidents' Conference to learn more about leadership skills and responsibilities, while 200 adult vo-ag leaders met to discuss better ways to implement SOE programs at the National Supervised Occupational Experience Program workshop.

The SOE workshop, held under the theme "Bridging the Gap," was sponsored by DEKALB AgResearch, Inc., and focused on renewed emphasis towards SOE strategy in the classroom. (More on the SOE workshops on Page 28.)

On Monday, the combined SOE workshop/State Presidents' Conference groups met at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia, to witness the grand opening dedication ceremony for the new FFA National Hall of Achievement. The Hall of Achievement was first conceived four years ago, as a landmark to preserve agricultural and FFA heritage, present the FFA story today, honor special FFA supporters and serve as a resource center for future programs and activities.

The nearly quarter-of-a-million-dollar project, built through funds donated by FFA members and supporters, features museum-quality exhibitions and audio-visual presentations on seven major themes. The hall also houses the new FFA library, complete with vital information on agriculture, FFA and is home to the National FFA Archives.

"I really liked the Hall of Achievement—it reminded me of a miniature Smithsonian for the FFA," said Scott Wright, state president from Kentucky. "The Hall of Achievement will give groups who visit the FFA Center an outstanding impression of what the FFA really is."

The hall will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily five days a week and to FFA members and their families during regular hours at the FFA Center. Several Hall of Achievement souvenir items are on sale as well.

A special dinner was held Wednesday evening to recognize the recently-named regional winners of the FFA Energy Challenge. Members and advisors from four areas of the country were selected as the top chapters in energy conservation, with the top chapter to be named at this year's National FFA Convention in November. The four chapters are Dorman of Spartanburg, South Carolina; Carizozo New Mexico; Clinton, Illinois; and James Wood of Frederick County, Virginia.

On Thursday, FFA leaders hosted a Congressional breakfast for about 100 Senators and Representatives to thank them for their support of FFA and vocational agriculture. Scott Watson, national vice-president from the Central Region,

Below, past Foundation Chairma





Above, from left to right: 1982 FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairman Lu Archilles Wall, National FFA Advisor Bryon Rawls, National Officers Randy Hedge and Melanie Burgess; Secretary of Education Terrel Bell, White

House Public Liaison Assistant Elizabeth Dole, President Reagan, Secretary of Agriculture John Block and National Officers Scott Neasham, Jack Stewart, John Pope and Scott Watson.

Photos by Author

summed up his thoughts in his address entitled "American Greatness: Tradition or Truth."

"Only an inner belief in excellence can create and nurture excellence. Either you seek the truth, or you hide from its angry glare," Scott said.

"Greatness cannot be bought with past laurels, or held by present verbage," he continued. "Greatness can only be produced by continued acts of greatness. A great citizenry must be allowed to function at its industrial and

agricultural peak, and be judiciously governed by great leaders. That has only happened once in all of man's history. It was an experiment—and the name of that experiment was The United States of America."

This was the fifteenth year for the State Presidents' Conference. Its primary objective is to inspire and motivate state FFA leaders, inform them of national FFA activities and offer a forum for exchanging ideas on the national level. Through congressional visits on Capitol

Hill, state officers are also given an opportunity to inform national leaders on the importance of vocational agriculture.

Throughout their week in Washington, D.C., FFA officers were able to visit several historic landmarks and learn more about our national heritage. Special moments included trips to George Washington's home in Mount Vernon, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, the Capitol and a theatre performance at the Kennedy Center. ●●●

Hendrickson opens Hall of Achievement. Below, the President receives Honorary Degree.



Collegiate FFA: "A Sleeping Giant"

Members of the Penn State Collegiate FFA Chapter prove FFA involvement needn't stop with high school graduation

By Jeffrey Tennant



Penn State FFA T-shirts: a hot item on campus. Photo by Author

HIGH school graduation marks the end of long years in study. But greater and possibly more rewarding challenges await. For some, college. And for others, a vocation or the military.

For many students, graduation means the end of membership in the Future Farmers of America. Some graduates claim no alumni chapter has been formed nearby, or no collegiate FFA chapter exists.

High school grads headed for Penn State University have no reason to stop involvement in FFA. This university, nestled in lush, rolling mountains near the center of Pennsylvania, offers its students top quality athletics, academics and something else—collegiate FFA.

"We should be the model FFA chapter in the state," says James Diamond, one of three advisors to the chapter, showing why the chapter is one of the best. "This is a laboratory for the future agriculture teachers in the state, as well as students in other fields besides education. Some haven't been in high school FFA, so it's even more valuable to them."

Diamond wonders how other universities train vocational agriculture teachers without a working collegiate FFA chapter. To witness the chapter in action, anyone would wonder.

On this particular winter night, two inches of snow covers the Penn State campus—and it's still falling. Many students have gathered in favorite eateries, watching the snow fall and wondering if classes will cancel. Not so for some 40 agricultural students who are working their way to an old classroom building on campus. Tonight's a big night—collegiate FFA officer elections.

Those elected will be challenged by an ambitious chapter program of work throughout the coming year with plenty of goals to be reached:

- average 40 members per meeting.
- host the Pennsylvania FFA state officer leadership workshop

- demonstrate successful meeting strategy to other campus groups
 - assist in conducting area and regional FFA contests
 - place an educational exhibit at the National FFA Convention
- And the list goes on.

The first eight points of the chapter's constitution and bylaws are adapted from the national FFA's aim and purposes. But numbers 9 through 11 specifically address the collegiate FFA member:

— To familiarize prospective teachers of vocational agriculture with the FFA, its aim and activities and with the requirements and duties of an advisor of an FFA chapter,

— To acquaint prospective teachers with ways and means of accomplishing objectives in the official FFA manual and in the Pennsylvania Association activities program,

— To perform the functions of the department club in the Department of Agricultural Education in the College of Agriculture."

"Collegiate FFA chapters are sleeping giants of the Future Farmer organization," says Dale Thompson, an advisor along with Diamond and Dr. Edgar Yoder. "Chapters like this can get new teachers better equipped to handle FFA on the high school level. In many ways, FFA is the only difference in teaching math and teaching vo-ag. So the future teacher should be ready to handle this vital link in vocational agriculture training."

Thompson, an enthusiastic supporter of FFA working on his doctorate in vocational education, sums up the need for FFA chapters in three "whats." "What I hear I forget, what I see, I can't remember, but what I do, I know."

"We still hold to a basic concept," echoes Diamond, whose fondness for FFA is reflected in his blue pickup and gold family car. "We believe that you learn by doing. These students, many of whom do not come from an

agricultural or FFA experience, will still be using their experiences here 10 or 15 years from now. A collegiate chapter works on the same rules as high school chapters: set goals, plan ahead, stimulate action and recognize achievement."

Advisors Thompson and Diamond lend strong leadership to the Penn State Chapter. But Diamond is the first to admit that, "Once you get a few key chapter members and give them support, an advisor must know when to step back and let it happen."

MeeCee Baker would qualify hands down as one of those key people. Her composed but bubbly personality brings to fore her advisors' idea that enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm. Chapter vice president for 1981-82, MeeCee says her chapter's drawing card is "good public relations through rewarding and meaningful activities."

"We look like the place to be," she says.

"Collegiate FFA has got something going here," says Penny Smith, also a chapter leader and a dairy science major. "It's not just a club to work in—there's also total involvement. The chapter can show you directions in leadership and careers."

"I thought I'd have to slow down after entering college as a just-retired state FFA officer," says Daryl Schafer, "but his collegiate chapter changes that attitude in a hurry."

Despite Penn State FFA's efforts, along with those of similar chapters across the nation, this brand of Future Farmer is still, as Dale Thompson puts it, "a sleeping giant." Collegiate FFA has never soared to great heights as did its high school counterpart, nor has it gained as much momentum as the organization's blossoming alumni association. Nonetheless, the collegiate FFA chapter's importance cannot be diminished. Properly organized and conducted, a collegiate FFA chapter can effectively bridge a gap between your last walk as a high school Future Farmer and your chosen career. ●●●

Running

(Continued from Page 22)

Another method to conserve is recovering water from the dewatered areas of the Ogallala near Lubbock, Texas. The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 2 has drilled four wells and will use them for different tests in the recovery process. There are questions about the amount of water left in sands above the water table. So air is forcing water in the sand down to the free water in the aquifer.

And the list goes on and on. For example, computers are being used to help conserve water. Computers do scheduling, monitor well history and check water allocation.

Another area of study is raising crops with increased salt concentrations. In Colorado, California and New Mexico, research is being conducted to see how much salt will crops such as barley, alfalfa and sorghum tolerate before their yields begin to drop.

The next century

Is there enough water in the country to continue the lifestyle and agricultural uses of the past 30 years or so? Or will dryland farming again be the common practice in states such as Texas, Nebraska and Kansas by the beginning of the next century? The answer to both questions is a solid maybe.

Think of it this way: Fresno County, California, is the single, largest agricultural producer in the nation. California is the world's top producer in over 40 commodities. But it wasn't that long ago that California was a non-productive desert.

While there appears to be an abundance of water available in other irrigated areas around the country—the South, East and Midwest—the fact of the matter is as people migrate west to relocate or retire, more demands will be placed on water for agricultural, as well as urban and industrial uses.

And that makes for another leak in the boat: Water rights. *Who has what* priority to water is a question being tossed around by a number of state legislatures. In Indiana, for example, between 1977 and 2000, irrigated acreage is expected to almost double from 64,604 to 157,300.

So under the auspices of "protecting the public interest," state legislatures like Indiana are developing water rights and management statutes preparing Indiana in the eventuality that conflicts arise over use of water.

What that means is agricultural interests had better be prepared in the

years ahead to organize effectively to assure themselves of adequate supplies of water.

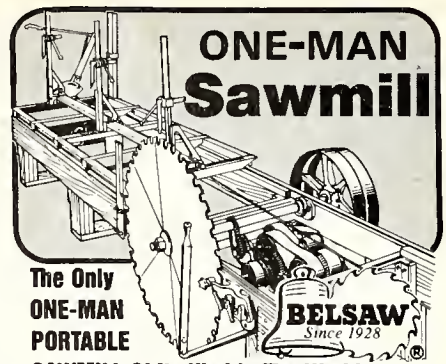
There are no easy answers to water and its use in the next several decades. But it is easy to see that irrigation has played a large role in this country's ability to feed the world. Without irrigation, one farmer in this country couldn't feed 75 people.

Further, a return to dryland farming will mean lower crop yields, which may mean higher farm prices, but will certainly mean higher consumer prices. The end result will be a public outcry at supermarkets so commonly seen even today, even though farm prices are disastrously low.

One thing is evident: Conservation efforts taken today will ensure that the next generation of farmers will have adequate supplies of water. For many farmers, conservation is the best hope for their future.

As farmer Clifford Hilbers of Idalou, Texas, aptly puts his feelings about the possible return to the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s: "I'm not buying that Dust Bowl talk. We know too much today about conserving water that we didn't know back then."

(This story was prepared exclusively for The National Future Farmer by Den Gardner, managing editor of Irrigation Age magazine, a monthly publication reaching 155,000 of the nation's irrigators published by The Webb Company, 1999 Shepard Road, St. Paul, MN 55116.)



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Combining traditional methods with new ideas, this purebred breeder turned an "on-the-spot" decision into a career.

By Cliff Kneale

IT was 1968 and Stan Gourley stood with his son, Jerry, looking at 20 acres east of Albany, Oregon. It was too small for sheep and not too many head of cattle could be run on the property.

"Hogs," he told 15-year-old Jerry, and a partnership was formed.

Today, at 29, Jerry Gourley is still in that partnership and does not regret the decision to become a hog farmer. From that on-the-spot decision has grown a successful operation and a satisfaction that is hard to match.

Gourley purchased ten head of crossbreed sows and went to work hog farming. Son Jerry helped and spent his high school years learning about livestock through the Upper Willamette district FFA, while drawing on his father's experience. He became a State Farmer and district president during his FFA years and later joined the FFA alumni.

"Just one thing after another would pop up," he says of the early days in the hog business. "Weather, warding off disease and trying to determine the best way to manage the operation kept us busy."

By 1970 he made the decision to go purebred. He chose the Berkshire and acquired one bred sow, an open gilt and a boar. These were introduced to the crossbreeds to develop stronger characteristics. Before long the crossbreeds were simply phased out of the Gourley operation in favor of the Berkshires.

He has developed a ready market for the offspring of his prize-winning hogs, which he keeps to a weight of 50

pounds before sale. With a high production rate and a relatively steady price, the hog ranch stays in business.

Using 80 sows producing two litters each per year, he has about 1,280 young hogs for market annually. Usually Gourley has about 500 sucklings on hand.

There were some problems which had to be dealt with during the early days of the operation—one of which was providing the most economical, yet efficient, housing for the Gourley hogs.

After much thought and research, he finally settled on a Cargill system for housing the hogs. "I believe it provides a near-perfect environment for the animals," Gourley says.

The Cargill system is an open front pen with studied angles built in to make the best use of the hogs' body heat, wind and other elements to provide a clean and healthy living environment for the hogs.

"It took us eight years to make up our mind on the system, but we are a little old fashioned here; to the point of using straw bedding, the Cargill system suited our needs," Gourley says. He attributes his decision-making process to his FFA-trained father and his own FFA training where he learned to study his farming needs thoroughly before taking action.

The Cargill system used by Gourley was developed by a midwestern hog rancher named Les Catreil, with whom Gourley kept in close contact during the construction of his operation.

Some of the questions they needed

answers to concerned angles of construction and the required Southern exposure, an exposure not considered to be a wise move in Oregon's windy Willamette Valley. Gourley called Catreil to have these questions addressed and received his answers in short order.

"He simply told me that if I didn't do it the way he said it should be done, not to bother him with any more questions," Gourley laughs.

So Jerry Gourley spent 1974 following directions, the result of which is today's operation. Calling confinement systems, "an equipment man's dream," Gourley felt there were too many difficulties with keeping hogs in a controlled environment and that stronger, better hogs could be raised less expensively with the open front Cargill system.

According to Gourley, the freedom of movement the hog can have with the open front is a great help in keeping his hogs in good disposition, too.

Gourley's open front unit is heated by the body heat of the animals. Wind from the south, combined with the hog's body heat and the specific construction angles of the system retain heat in the pen, keeping hogs toasty even on the coldest of winter mornings. The rear of the pens open to allow wind passage in the summer months, keeping the livestock cool.

"Experts say you could raise over 120 sows in one of these units, but I would hate to try it. Even in a confinement unit, with all of its automation, it would be just too much work," he says.

The hogs Gourley raises are a tribute to the Berkshire breed, as testified by the numerous ribbons won in show. It's partly due to a carefully planned program of diet and vaccinations. He mixes his own feed for the hogs, insuring they receive just the right amount of nutrients to keep them growing healthy and holding the strong desirable characteristics of the breed.

"We sell breeding stock," Mr. Gourley says. "We try not to sell feeders for market. Keeping the good genetic traits is important in marketing breeders. The Berkshire has these traits to begin with. Keeping them and improving them is the business of breeding breeders."

Genetic traits, marketability, good looks and a love of hogs in general is what Gourley likes about the ranch—and it's why he's in business. But why Berkshires?

"Well," Jerry Gourley pauses, thinking back to that day in 1968 when he and his father were looking over the 20 acres.

"Dad had Berks when he was in FFA back in 1937."

•••

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LET's be real. Appearance isn't everything, but a good one helps. Often those who don't know you base their impressions on how you look. If you shout, "That's not the way it should be!" you are quite correct. But you can't ignore the fact that a sharp-looking appearance says something about you.

Each year the National FFA Convention brings together over 20,000 FFA members from across the country to recognize achievements and conduct business which affects a fellow membership of almost half a million. And there's nothing more awesome or inspiring than seeing rows and rows of blue-jacketed FFA members wearing official FFA dress.

But it shouldn't just happen at convention time. No matter where you are—FFA camp, state convention, school assembly or vo-ag classroom—there's nothing more powerful than a well-dressed, well-mannered group of FFA members.

Remember: when you look good, FFA looks great. For more details on the proper use of the FFA jacket, official dress and the FFA code of ethics, consult the Official FFA Manual.



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During the *Oberlin, KS*, Chapter's own 50th year celebration, they painted windows of downtown stores to promote FFA. At the end of the week, they cleaned the windows.

At their county fair, three *Glide, OR*, members took division championships in ag mechanics and earned the chapter a Best Exhibit award. **Robert Ashton** won large construction with his wool sacker. **Greg Hickman** won medium division with his sheep cutting gate. **Tony Morene** won with a fence post pounder.

All of the officers of *Dresden, TN*, Chapter attended leadership camp this summer.

Clay Theeck of *Brenham, TX*, Chapter was National Champion Santa Gertrudis Junior Showmen in Dallas.

Kristi Krafka, *Dysart, IA*, and state sheep proficiency winner, has been named queen by Iowa Suffolk Association.

Douglas, WY, Chapter had a pheasant stuffed and sent to the FFA Center for use in the Hall of Achievement exhibits.

Elgin, OK, opened the year with an ice cream social for members and parents. Introduced officers, teachers, faculty and administration.

Market hogs will be the income generators for *Waterford, OH*, FFA.

Wonder how many chapters will buy new FFA jackets for their delegates for National Convention?

The *Sapulpa, OK*, livestock judging team placed first in American Junior Simmental Association judging contest. Then they placed first in the Oklahoma Brangus Breeders contest.



Lebanon, OR, has a beginning tractor driving program.

In order to raise funds for a new Apple II computer, *Bloomfield, IA*, held a corn pickup sponsored by a farmer in the community.

Part of the BOAC project for *Middlesex County, NJ*, FFA is helping the county extension service with an urban gardens program in New Brunswick.

Fountain City, WI, helped clean up after a tornado swept through their community.

Even though they had enough gas to coast to the exit ramp, *El Paso, IL*, state convention delegates needed help from the *Chenoa, IL*, Chapter, also en route home from convention, to take their advisor for gas.

A restoration-repair job on the old tents by *Osceola, MO*, FFA saved the local youth fair the hundreds of dollars for tent rental.

The nine *Symsonia, KY*, members who went to the state FFA leadership camp earned a best cottage award for their chapter. They must have been well organized.

Carlsbad, NM, is just one of the many local chapters who were honored this summer as 100% chapters. How is your chapter doing on its member recruitment for this coming school year?

One of the most successful fund-raisers around is the *Franklin, IN*, annual FFA consignment sale. They grossed over \$11,000 this summer.



Cumberland Valley, PA, FFA entered a volleyball team in county sports night. Then refreshments were served in the vo-ag shop.

After the potluck and recreation at *Gibsonburg, OH*, annual picnic, the members, families and guests toured the chapter's soybean test plot.

First prize meant \$450 and a ribbon for the *Oceanside-El Camino, CA*, Chapter with their entry in the junior landscape exhibit at the Southern California Exposition.

The past state officers of the *Texas* FFA have formed an Alumni Affiliate and as a project have published a directory of all past officers including their address and current occupation.

Although there were 127 entrants in *Marlow, OK*, rodeo, a highlight of the two-day event was wild steer riding that pitted teams of Marlow contestants against each other. **Prater, Troutman, Boyce and Phillips** won it in 2 minutes, 13.45 seconds.

Elgin, OH, in Marion planted sunflowers in the field west of the school's baseball diamond. The sunflower seed was donated by Pillsbury and the fertilizer by Landmark.

Big Spring, PA, members, Young Farmers and families took off to see the Philadelphia Phillies-Pittsburgh Pirates game.

Wild pheasants, partridges and turkeys were released this fall by *New Richland, MN*, Chapter. Money to purchase the birds was raised in last year's ice fishing contest.

Central, IA, FFA actually listed the names in the September Newsletter of all members who attended the August chapter meeting. Newsletter also is full of news about the chapter activities and a spotlight item about one member.

A summer break for *Fairbanks, OH*, members and Advisor **Joe Williams** meant a canoe trip on June 7 and a putt-putt tournament on June 8. According to Reporter **Kirk Scott**, who went both days.

Guess little Indian Creek near *Toulon, IL*, wasn't big enough, so FFA members drove up into Minnesota for their canoeing and fishing expedition.

First project of the new *Conrad-Weiser, PA*, Alumni Affiliate was to recognize on plaques all the State Farmer degree recipients. Money for plaques came from a meat raffle. Unveiling of plaques was at banquet.

Rhonda Pomajzl, reporter of *Wilber-Clatonia, NE*, reported on a livestock workshop for members to learn how to prepare for the showing.

Three *Benson, AZ*, members were named state proficiency winners this year—**Diane Sanders** for ag mechanics, **Shane Smith** for swine production, and **Ty Kempton** for ag electrification.

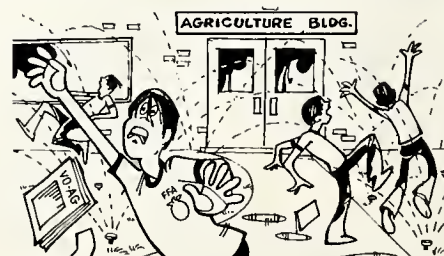
In the *Mansfield, TX* member-alumni they announced a June 9 deadline date for members to add their jacket order to a chapter order being compiled to send to the FFA Supply Service. They speculated faster service—which is absolutely correct. Plus get in their order before the fall catalog (and predicted price increases) rush.

Ira D. Zinner is president of the 650-member *Philadelphia* Chapter at W.B. Saul High School. That may be larger than some state associations.

When *Willard, OH*, FFA served the Ohio Bankers Association barbecued pork, they also served a salad made totally from produce harvested off of the Celeryville muck farm. As part of banker's meeting they toured the operation where celery, radishes, onions, broccoli, potatoes, carrots, beets and lettuce are grown.

Now that *Evergreen, OH*, FFA has finished their BOAC project, there's a new shed and concession stand in the park.

Miss Rodeo World, **Diane McKaben**, was feature speaker for the *Newell, SD*, Chapter banquet.



Zillah, WA, Chapter has weeded and bark mulched plus installed an automatic irrigation system in front of the ag building.

Let's hear from some new chapters this year. Tell about the fun or funny things. Share the interesting meeting ideas. Who are the trend setters in your chapter?



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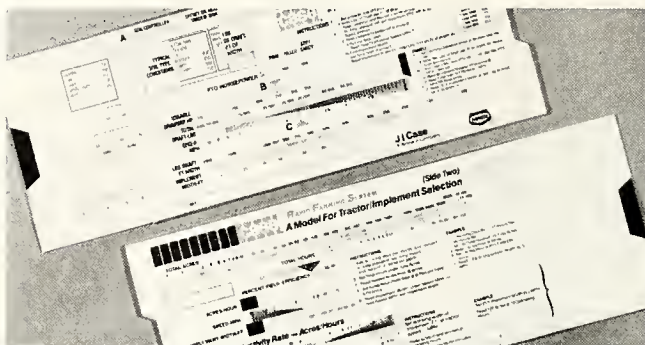


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New in Agriculture

Right, need a quick way of finding out if your tractor and implements are properly matched to soil and crop conditions for optimum productivity? J I Case offers this pocket-sized slide calculator, developed as part of the Case Rapid Farming System. Provide a few basic inputs and the calculator indicates optimum implement width and tractor operating speed to accomplish a given farming operation within a specific time frame—plus a host of other functions. It's available by sending \$2 to J I Case Agricultural Equipment Division, Dept. cc 940, 700 State Street, Racine, Wisconsin 53404.



Below, AGRO SPECIALTIES announces their newly developed AGROMATIC Moisture/Temperature Meter. The meter is portable, inexpensive and ideal for checking moisture content of grain either in the field, in the bin or at the dryer. The unit is battery operated and provides immediate results to an accuracy of plus or minus 0.4 percent.



Above, Farmplan Computer Systems, Inc., announces complete desktop computer software and hardware systems for farmers. Software programs for dairy, hog and crop producers are available, as well as programs for general farm management, financial utilities and record keeping. All programs are designed for the 48K Apple II Plus computer.

Below, the new 1500 Min-Til conservation tool from Allis-Chalmers Corporation incorporates disk and chisel plow functions into one implement. The heavy-weight unit is designed for reduced tillage operations, greater fuel efficiency, fast field operation and improved soil conservation and is available in three widths.



Left, this new un-roller attachment for Sperry New Holland's Model 80 round bale mover handles both large and small round bales, and simplifies handling of hay from field to feeding. A hydraulic "push-off" device is also available for loading bales into a pickup or flat bed farm wagon.





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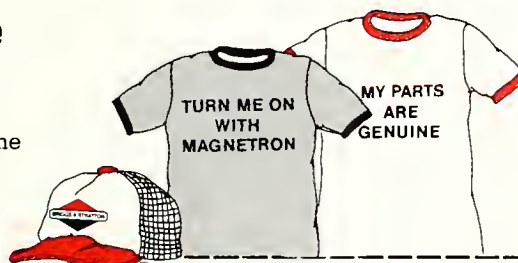
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Leadership For His Nation

NATHAN Notah of Tohatchi, New Mexico, is living proof of what FFA leadership skills can do for a person.

Nathan, who recently served as a state officer for New Mexico, is a graduate of the class of 1981 from Tohatchi High School. But Tohatchi is a little bit different from most public schools—99 percent of its student body are Navajos.

At left, Nathan's coat is displayed with beads and blankets his family made. Below, with Advisor Daryl Gustin at family ranch.

Photos by Daryl Gustin



Tohatchi is located on the Navajo Indian Reservation, which can be found in three different states. The reservation itself is larger than some states in the U.S., covering 16 million acres or more than 125,000 square miles.

Nathan has held the office of chapter president, treasurer and Greenhand president before serving on the state level. His leadership skills were also tested when he was elected president of the Navajo Nation Youth Council for the Tohatchi Chapter. (A chapter is a political and social division of the Navajo Indian Reservation.)

Besides his several proficiency and scholarship awards, Nathan has helped his FFA chapter climb to an all-time high membership, partly due to his chapter's achieving their goal of 100 percent membership through the last four years. In 1981, the Tohatchi Chapter was named one of the 10-Plus national chapters.

Nathan's SOE program consists of 4 white face cows and calves, 10 mohair goats and 25 head of Columbia-Rambouillet crossbred sheep. He keeps his herd at this number because of the limited grass due to drought. The Navajo Reservation has never recovered from overgrazing in the 1930s, when the U.S. government ordered the Navajos to reduce their herds. During a short period of time 148,344 goats alone were killed.

Another area Nathan has been concerned with is range management. He has fenced the best part of his family's land and feels that within a few years he'll be able to increase his herd size from 64 acres per sheep or goat to 37 acres per animal.

Nathan recently finished his first year attending New Mexico State University majoring in Agricultural Education. His plans include working closely with the Arizona FFA chapters, Navajo Nation Youth Affairs and Bureau of Indian Affairs to show his people the value of strong FFA programs in their schools. ●●●

The National FUTURE FARMER

BOAC To Recognize Individual Achievement

MEMBERS of the Future Farmers of America and their advisors will have an opportunity to improve leadership skills and compete for state and national recognition through a new addition to the Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program.

The program, "Achievement in Volunteerism," will recognize outstanding achievement in community development by FFA members who carry out individual BOAC projects. In addition, those selected and their advisors will participate in a community development and leadership training program.

"Achievement in Volunteerism" is sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., through the National FFA Foundation. It is designed to stimulate participation in BOAC while enhancing the leadership skills of FFA members and advisors.

"Through the addition of this program, FFA members have a new opportunity to gain leadership experience while serving their communities," says National Advisor Byron Rawls. "This addition to the BOAC program will stimulate the network of community leaders already learning how to make things happen in their hometowns."

All FFA members participating in BOAC are eligible for the program. Application forms for the new program will be included in chapter BOAC applications to be sent to FFA chapters this fall.

Awards and recognition will be carried out on local, state and national levels. FFA members are selected based on individual commitments to volunteerism demonstrated through participation in BOAC.

One FFA member from each chapter receiving an area BOAC award will be recognized for outstanding achievement.

Each state will select one FFA member from the state award-winning chapter. In addition to individual recognition, the chapter will receive \$200 to further pursue community development activities.

Finally, each state winner, plus his or her advisor will participate in a national FFA leadership conference on community development. The conference, held in Washington, D.C., will educate FFA members and their advisors on leadership aspects of community development, in an effort to further enhance the abilities of those who have already been identified as

effective in community development work.

Winners and their advisors will also tour points of current and historical interest in the Washington, D.C., area, demonstrating the impact of leadership on American life. Participants will attend a session of Congress, as well as meet with congressmen and leaders from the

U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Education.

Finally, winners will be recognized at a luncheon where they will be honored for their achievements in volunteerism. In addition to national recognition, chapters of the top ten winners will receive national scholarships to be used in further community development work. ●●●

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Set The Stage!

WHAT do country music star Barbara Mandrell, Secretary of Agriculture John Block, actor Eddie Albert and 23,000 enthusiastic FFA members have in common? They're all coming together for the 55th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, November 11-13. And in typical convention fashion, the event promises to be as action-packed as ever—with a few new surprises thrown in for even more excitement.

Those guest appearances mentioned above will be speaking from a brand new convention stage, three times larger than any previous FFA convention stage at Municipal Auditorium. Primary reason for the larger format is to gain maximum impact from FFA Band, Chorus and talent performances, while also improving seating availability on the convention floor.

The new stage sounds appropriate for the exciting events planned. Under the theme "Vocational Agriculture Educating Through Experience," members will get a chance to see all those events which make convention-time so exciting, like national public speaking contests, Stars over America Pageant and retiring national officer speeches. Guest appearances from "Little House on the Prairie" star Melissa Gilbert, Dale Evans, Secretary of Education Terrel Bell and Senator Jesse Helms round out the list of celebrities and VIP's scheduled to speak at this year's convention.

And there's more: FFA members can gain new leadership skills through workshops sponsored by the National Alumni Association, held throughout the convention. National judging contests will test member's skills, and the National Agricultural Career Show will feature booths representing nearly every phase of the ag industry. The convention newspaper *The FFA Times* is back for its second year of keeping FFA'ers up-to-date on convention news, and sports, rodeo and music fans will enjoy FFA Day at Arrowhead stadium and FFA Day at the American Royal.



VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE
Educating Through Experience

1982 NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, November 6

8:30 a.m. American Royal Parade
Led by National FFA Officers

Sunday, November 7

1 p.m. First Practice—National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent

Tuesday, November 9

9-10 a.m. Delegate Registration - Radisson Meuhlebach

1-8 p.m. Early Registration - H. Roe Bartle

Wednesday, November 10

8 a.m. Registration

1:30 p.m. FFA Alumni Opening Session
National Agricultural Career Show, Bartle Hall

2 p.m. Business Session

7 p.m. Vespers Program
Special Guest, Dale Evans

Thursday, November 11

7 a.m. Livestock Contest

8 a.m. Registration
Farm Business Management, Meats, Nursery/Landscape Contests

8:30 a.m. Milk Quality and Dairy Foods Contests

8:45 a.m. Floriculture Contest

9 a.m. Convention Opening Session
FFA Alumni Association
Second Session

Noon Dairy Cattle Contest

12:30 p.m. Agricultural Mechanics Contest

1 p.m. Alumni Leadership Workshop
American Farmer Degrees

3 p.m. Alumni Workshop

6:30 p.m. National FFA Talent Show

8 p.m. Sponsor Recognition
Stars Over America

Friday, November 12

8:30 a.m. Poultry Contest

8:45 a.m. Nursery/Landscape Contests
Proficiency Awards

9 a.m. BOAC Awards
Remarks by Sen. Jesse Helms
National Chapter Awards

11 a.m. Alumni Workshop

1 p.m. Alumni Workshop

2 p.m. Honorary American Farmer Degrees

Distinguished Service Citations
Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest

3 p.m. Alumni Workshop

6:30 p.m. National FFA Band and Chorus Concert

8 p.m. Prepared Public Speaking Contest
VIP Citations

Saturday, November 13

9 a.m. Contest Winners
International Activities Report
Election of 1982-83 National Officers

1 p.m. FFA Day at the American Royal
Guest, Barbara Mandrell

6:30 p.m. Firestone Show

8 p.m. Installation of 1982-83 National Officers

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IT'S A LONG WAY FROM BOWDLE TO COON RAPIDS

How can students' interest in agriculture and summer activities be strengthened? The Coon Rapids, Iowa, and Bowdle, South Dakota, Chapters held a two-week exchange to promote increased knowledge of agriculture in neighboring states.

The Coon Rapids Chapter has 26 members and was chartered in 1980 and the 16-member Bowdle Chapter was chartered in 1979.

Three Bowdle Future Farmers of America Chapter members participated in the first half of the chapter exchange and traveled to visit the Coon Rapids, Iowa, FFA Chapter on June 21-25. The South Dakota members who attended were Tim Heilman, Ron Doerr and John Gross, accompanied by Advisor Gary Bachman.

Tuesday morning in Iowa, members of the chapters and their guests toured the Garst Seed Company which owns or contracts 55,000 acres of land and produces seed corn, hybrid wheat and sorghum. The members toured the facility, seed fields and were briefed on company operations.

Following lunch the group toured the Garst Cattle Company which consists of approximately 4,000 Gelbvieh, Charolais and Simmental cow-calf pairs pastured on river bottom and hilly upland pastures.

The Bowdle Chapter members worked on the host farms Wednesday morning and were shown the campus of Iowa State University in Ames by a past state FFA officer.



Above, FFA members in Coon Rapids took their guides from South Dakota to the Shirbroun Farm. Below, the Iowa exchangees enjoyed a picnic with their new FFA friends in the north.



Thursday brought tours of two Coon Rapids FFA members' fathers' farms, an equipment dealer and a picnic. The first farm tour was on the Joe Shirbroun farm, which is a beef, hog and grain operation. The Dick Hart farm, beef and grain enterprises, was toured and lunch provided to the group by the Harts. This operation included crossbred beef cattle and a purebred Limousin herd.

Malcolm and Thomas Equipment was visited and the students noted the differences in equipment used in the Coon Rapids and Bowdle areas.

The Iowa members arrived in South Dakota July 14. Those traveling north were Jeff Shirbroun, Dave Ness, Scott Hart, Jaimie Wurr, Denny Halbur and Joe Meiners. They were accompanied by Advisor Howard Marsh.

Scheduled activities in South Dakota began on Thursday, July 15. The group toured the Richard Beitelspacher ranch to see their 300 cow-calf pairs and purebred Simmental herd.

Later the members were shown a corn alcohol plant. This operation uses corn to produce ethanol, which can be used as a power source, according to owner Albinus Thomas.

Gaylon Goetz, a sunflower grower and sheep producer, explained management practices for raising sunflowers in South Dakota such as the differences between dwarf and regular sunflowers, solid seeded and row seeded sunflowers and herbicides and insecticides used with sunflowers. He also showed the students his herd of 150 ewes.

Friday's schedule included a tour of McFleeg, Inc., of Bowdle, where the group learned about the mixing, weighing, pelleting, handling and distributing of feeds produced locally.

At noon a picnic was held at Hiddenwood State Park.

Larry Rollefson of Walworth County Implement in Selby displayed different types and sizes of farm equipment used in the area. Tollefson also talked about conservation practices used with the various equipment.

After lunch the members of the FFA chapters went west of the Missouri River and drove through the grasslands of western South Dakota.

In both communities the visitors were hosted by families of FFA members.

WELLS FARGO MONEY

Richard Henley, an FFA senior at Riverbank, California, was presented with a \$1,000 scholarship check from Wells Fargo Bank at the bank's Oakdale office.

The \$1,000 scholarship is the largest award sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank for members of 4-H and FFA.

Richard was chapter reporter of the Riverbank FFA the past three years. He has been an outstanding sheep showman and also participated this year for the first time in the Modesto section of the annual FFA project competition sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank. He was awarded a gold certificate for his project of Sudan hay and turnips, planted consecutively on three acres, and an Angus steer he raised.

A well-rounded student, Richard was recently admitted to the *Who's Who of American High Schools*. He plans to study veterinary medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno.

THE ROAD TO LEARNING

Driving north on Route 165 in Maine you can easily locate Limestone High School if you make a left turn on FFA Avenue as you enter Limestone. This newly named avenue leads directly to the high school, the home for the past 50 years of the Limestone FFA Chapter.

The town voted unanimously at the last town meeting to rename School Street to FFA Avenue in honoring the chapter for the community service and recognition the FFA chapter has brought to the community as the most northeastern FFA chapter in the United States.



Reporter Joe Kovack held the ladder for Gail Pelletier who had to straighten the new FFA Avenue sign.

Two chapter officers made the request for the name change at a meeting of the Limestone Planning Board. The board recommended to the selectmen that the FFA Avenue proposal be entered as an article to be voted on at the town meeting. Many of the over 500 graduates of vocation/FFA at Limestone High School remain as active citizens and supporters of FFA in our community. FFA in Limestone is "family." (Pete Edgecomb, Advisor)

(Continued on Page 52)

National FFA Supply Service

Mom & Pop!

CHRISTMAS IS SNEAKING UP ON US!

How about surprising your young member with a nice FFA gift! Here are a few that may interest you!
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Navy blue pullover, 50% acrylic/50% rayon for warmth and durability.

Sizes: SM - MED - LG - XL.

Item SWE

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KASHA LINED OXFORD NYLON JACKET



With knitted collar, cuffs and waist band. Navy w/gold stripes and FFA identification.

Item WB-4

Nylon/Knit Jacket **\$24.50 ea.**

FLEECE LINED RANCH COAT

Modern tan suede look outer shell, shearling lining and trim. Western yoke, large patch pockets and leather look buttons. FFA patch left chest. Completely washable. Shipped direct from our supplier.

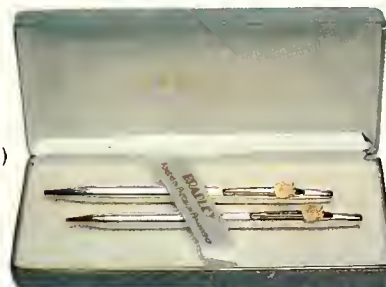
Available in SM (34-36) MED (38-40) LG (42-44) XL (46-48)
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Ranch Coat **\$36.50 ea.**



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(by Bradley)



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ITEM	QTY	SIZE	COLOR	ARTICLE	EACH	TOTAL

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Be sure to include all information listed on this coupon.
Include your proper state tax and handling charges.



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Jeweler's stainless steel, stadium design with choice of officer or member symbol as follows:

- President (01) Gavel
- Vice President (02) Plow
- Secretary (03) Corn
- Treasurer (04) Geo. Wash.
- Reporter (05) Flag
- Sentinel (06) Hands
- Parliamentarian (07) Fasces
- Chaplain (08) Dove
- Advisor (12) Owl
- Member (00) Wheat/Book

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*This is the two number code designating office panel desired

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shop, bank lobbies, library; Wallet style for everyone's wallet or purse, go in with thank you notes at Christmas or birthday, or handouts at the fair. These FFA Calendars are full color, illustrated with actual vo-ag/FFA scenes. The printed message is FFA Is An Agricultural Education Experience. Order as many as you or your friends or chapter can use.



This Home & Office Style Cover Scene is also the main illustration on Poster and Desk Style Calendars. NEW for '83 is a Wall Style which has space for a chapter's own picture and space for up to 12 advertisers. If you want information about the Wall Style, check the box on the coupon at left.

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All for \$70.00

To order, just check coupon at left.

FFA in Action

(Pick up the ACTION from Page 50)

GARTH'S TRAVELS

Ten members of the Housatonic Valley, Connecticut, FFA went on a chapter trip to New Hampshire last July. While in New Hampshire the group toured the Garland Sawmill and the Fog Dairy Farm. The group had a picnic with the Abnaki FFA Chapter in Whitefield, New Hampshire.

Also traveling on the chapter trip was Garth Mayfield, a Tennessee FFA member on an exchange program with the Housatonic Valley FFA. Garth lives in Goodlettsville, Tennessee, and is a junior in the White House Chapter.

Garth's host family was the Antonio Korth family of Cornwall. They own a dairy farm and their son is the chapter vice president.

Garth arrived in Connecticut in mid-July and stayed for two weeks. During his time here he has been on our chapter trip, toured some supervised occupational experience programs of FFA members, visited a local dairy farm and attended the Furham Fair. (Shannon Lennon, Reporter)

TWO FFA'ERS MECHANIZE MEXICO

Discarding apprehensions about water and communicating with ample use of

Spanish textbooks, a pair of Oregon Future Farmers are nearing the completion of an agricultural mission to Mexico.

Bill Higgins, Junction City, Oregon, and Paul Anderes, Roseburg, are currently working in Mexico as representatives of Oregon's FFA program. They are primarily occupied with teaching the basics in the use of modern farm equipment to Mexican farmers.

Higgins, 18, and Anderes, 19, were selected by the Oregon State FFA in 1982 to represent the state in the equipment exchange and training session which will herald the close of the first year of the state-

wide project to locate, repair and provide farm equipment to the southern neighbor.

Intentions are to make equipment available to Mexican farmers on a regular basis in an effort to improve the productivity of the Mexican farmer.

Higgins and Anderes met the original shipment of U.S. farm equipment consisting of two tractors, a disc and a seeder, in Mexico City. Here they received an in-country orientation before moving to a farm cooperative to train farmers.

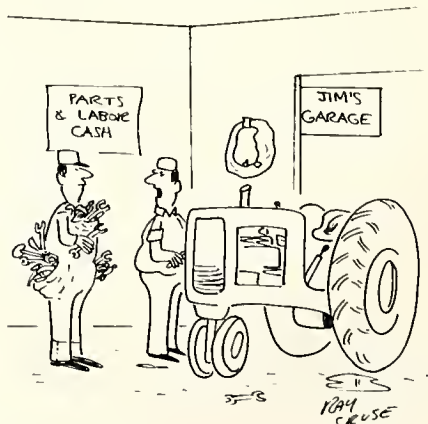
Financing for the trip has been provided through grants to the National FFA Foundation, from the Oregon Seed Trade Council and the Rotary Clubs of Mexico and the U.S. The members are funded with \$1,750 in scholarship funds to cover transportation and living expenses.

As a secondary mission and in keeping with the desires of the Mexican government toward agrarian reform, Anderes and Higgins will meet with government officials in an effort to form a Future Farmers of Mexico.

"We also hope to have Mexico included in the FFA's International Work Experience Abroad program," Higgins said. Currently, the FFA WEA program includes 26 countries, most of which Anderes visited during 1980-81.

Higgins and Anderes were selected for the mission due to their outstanding records as FFA members. Both have said they hope to see the equipment repair and

(Continued on Page 54)



"I wish you'd buy a tool box."

REWARD



25¢ REWARD FOR EACH FRONT PANEL OF d-CON® RAT KILLER. PAYABLE TO YOUR LOCAL FFA CHAPTER

d-CON will send your local FFA chapter 25¢ for each front panel of d-CON Ready Mixed or Pellets submitted by your chapter. This special offer starts September 1, 1982 and runs through March 1, 1983.

All you do is send in front panels, along with the chapter name and address, to: The Resco Company, Box 1500, White Plains, N.Y. 10602. We'll send your FFA chapter a check. It's that simple.

Remember, more farmers use d-CON than all other rat and mouse killers combined. Because d-CON works. So start killing rats with d-CON, and help your local FFA chapter make a killing, too.



FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 52)

delivery program grow into a national project aimed at many underdeveloped countries. (Cliff Kneale)

CROWDED NEST

If Kankakee Valley FFA'ers in Wheatfield, Indiana, have brothers and/or sisters who are interested in farming, but the farm lacks the size to keep all of them employed on the farm, a new agribusiness class offers them a good alternative to farming.

The new class on agribusiness was

started at Kankakee Valley High in order to study local agribusinesses, different forms of business, job skills, college offerings in agriculture and careers in agribusiness. In the class, 14 different agribusinesses in the community are visited and agribusiness field trip reports are completed for each visit (giving a job description of the employee interviewed). Different forms of business are studied such as cooperatives, corporations, partnerships and proprietorships. Job skills are performed in interviewing and performance reviews. Agribusiness careers are studied in supplies, mechanics, products and professional areas.

Overall, the class has been a success.

Agribusiness offers a good alternative to farming for those who have a farm background but no opportunity to actually farm. (Steven Inman, Advisor)

FACTS FOR ACTION

Guidelines For Submitting An Article To The Magazine

Chapters are invited to submit articles on a variety of subjects. These articles can be success stories about a member's occupational experience program, leadership activities and other worthwhile endeavors. Local chapter or group activities are good topics if they contain ideas and information that other chapters can use (and especially if they are new or unusual ideas). Any type of article that contains information FFA members would find useful, helpful or of special interest would be useful.

Often the article need not be a full length feature. Letters to the Editor, "Chapter Scoop" and "FFA in Action" use several short items each issue. The most important point is to zero in on a topic and give adequate details. It is best if the article is typed and double-spaced. For "FFA in Action" or longer features, the article should answer the five W's and H of journalism—Who, What, When, Where, Why and How.

Pictures are preferred in black and white showing FFA members at work or play. Good, clear pictures are more important than size but a 5x7 is preferred, although smaller sizes like 3x5 are used.

Just write it up and send it in. Include pictures if you have them. Address it to: *The National FUTURE FARMER*, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

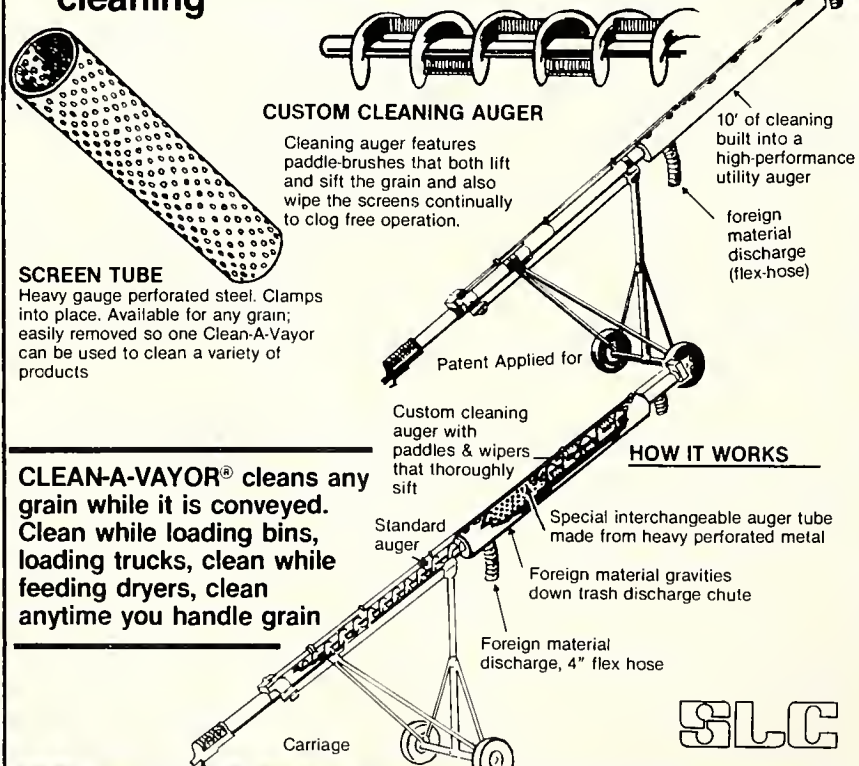
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"Betcha I could straighten it up with a coupla fence stretchers."

The National FUTURE FARMER



This year as in the past two years, crosscut log sawing was a popular activity Saturday afternoon for the Oregon State FFA convention goers. The contest was sponsored by the Oregon FFA Alumni. The competition was divided into men's doubles bucking, Jack and Jill bucking, and advisors competition. Some of the more illustrious competitors included National Vice President Melanie Burgess and California State President Jan Eberly (1 minute 16 seconds) who are shown above "Meeting the Challenge and Making the Difference."

NATIONAL OFFICER ACTION UPDATE

An important activity of national officers is to conduct the nine National FFA Leadership Conference for State Officers. The NLCSOs are designed to improve leadership and communication skills, develop an understanding of state FFA officer responsibilities and prepare state officers for more effective leadership roles in their state FFA association. The conferences are forums for exchange of ideas between officers from several states. The National FFA Officers conduct the conferences, help with the training sessions as well as get to know state officers personally. Training sessions include a public speaking workshop, an FFA quiz contest, a banquet program and many other leadership activities all designed to improve communication skills of officers. The National FFA Leadership Conferences for State Officers are held in the summer and are sponsored by The Merck

Company Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc. This year conferences were hosted by Tennessee for Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Indiana; by Montana for Montana, Wyoming; by Nebraska for Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota; by Idaho for Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii; by Mississippi for Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana; by Arizona for New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Arizona, Utah; by Georgia for South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico; by Maine for New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island; by Virginia for Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Texas.

BARROWS TAKE THE TEST

The North Shelby FFA Chapter, Shelbyville, Missouri, held its second Production Tested Barrow Derby. The chapter sponsored this show in cooperation with the Missouri Seed Stock Committee, Missouri Department of Agriculture, the State Fair and Missouri Pork Producers. Ninety-four hogs were involved in the barrow test this year. The consignors came from throughout the entire state of Missouri. The test station site is located one mile southeast of the high school on a farm owned by Harold Miller, Baring, Missouri.

Included within the various managerial responsibilities of the chapter was weighing the hogs at 50-day intervals and recording rate of gain figures. Members of the chapter assisted Jack Neill, DVM, Shelbyville, Missouri, in extracting blood from the hogs in order to certify them against Brucellosis and Pseudorabies before the final show. The last and most enjoyable responsibility of the chapter was to operate and host the live show which was held Saturday, August 14. About 100 people attended. Three factors of the weight test station

(Continued on Page 56)

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You're in business, ready to earn up to \$12.50 an hour a few days after you begin Foleys-Belsaw's special training. Take advantage of today's unprecedented opportunities in Locksmithing for year-round EXTRA INCOME in spare time — or full time in a high-profit business of your own. Hundreds we've trained have done it, so can YOU! All tools plus professional key Machine given you with course. These plus practice materials and equipment plus simple illustrated lessons plus expert supervision, plus business-building guidance will enable you to KEEP THE MONEY COMING in! Ideal for retirement — good jobs too.

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FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 55)

were used to determine the final winners of the barrow test: rate of gain, carcass cut-out date (made available by Wilson Packing Plant, Marshall, Missouri), and an on-foot score given at the live show. The owner of the champion barrow, Ray Aubuchan, Aubuchan Hamps, Auxvass, Missouri, received a trophy and a cash prize of \$1,500. The owner of the reserve champion barrow, Jon Tieman, LaGrange, Missouri, also received a trophy and a cash prize of \$1,000. The money for the awards was made available by an entry fee and from contributions made by various feed companies and other agricultural product suppliers.



Members helped the veterinarian with the test work on the barrows.

Tim Caldwell and DariDee Vanskie were appointed hog managers for this year's testing operation. They carried the major responsibilities for the program and provided leadership within the chapter.

Several members had barrows in the test: Tim and DariDee, Randy and Lance Trenhile, Shauna and Russel Coon and Kevin Lindsey.

A LABOR AGREEMENT OVER SAFETY

The Alex, Oklahoma, FFA recently met with the Alex Town Council and the Alex School Board to promote the FFA safety program for the upcoming year. Mitch Drummond, FFA president, presented a safety program to promote child safety in the town of Alex.

At the town council meeting Mitch proposed that if the town would supply all material the Alex FFA would paint crosswalks at major intersections in Alex. The town council then voted to accept the FFA program.

After the town council meeting Mitch arranged for FFA to meet with the Alex School Board. He presented the chapter's safety program with help from Vice President Missy Thurston and Secretary Janna Ward. The proposal for the school board consisted of no parking signs on all sides of the school plus designating a parking lot for both teachers and students. Again, the FFA would supply the labor and the school would supply the material. This was then voted on by the school board and passed.

The Alex FFA has a four-part safety program set up for the upcoming school year, consisting of child safety, home safety, community safety and farm safety. (Tom Strickland, Advisor)

SPEEDING AND DRINKING FACTS

As a special feature at the July 20 meeting of the Chief Logan, Ohio, FFA they had State Highway Patrolman Philips as a speaker.

The FFA held their annual meeting first, then Trooper Philips gave a short talk on the dangers of speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol. He said that most of the accidents which occur in Hocking County are due to drinking and speeding.

After his talk Trooper Phillips showed the members his patrol car and all the equipment including the radar, blood testing equipment, radios and other equipment used in patrolling. (Sandy Kuhn, Reporter)

GOVERNMENTAL SAFETY



Lt. Governor John Mutz, Commissioner of Agriculture, presents a proclamation declaring September 19-25 Indiana Farm Safety Week to (left-right) 4-H member Rusty Norman and Prairie Heights FFA member Scott Stump.



"Thanks to erosion, most of my soil is now in the Gulf of Mexico."

STANDING UP TO BE COUNTED

Osceola, Missouri, was hit by a tornado last summer. Thousands of trees were toppled and many houses were damaged and a couple were destroyed. Fortunately, no lives were lost and no serious injuries were reported.

However, the devastation of the large town cemetery seemed to hurt the people the most. Many beautiful trees were destroyed, tombstones were toppled and debris was spread everywhere.

So the Osceola FFA felt the need and desire to help the community during this crisis. After contacting the city and cemetery officials and informing them of our plans to help, they all agreed that the cemetery could really use it.



Osceola members helped restore the town cemetery after it was hit by a tornado.

A date was set to work and all members were contacted. Since a construction crew had been hired to remove the large trees and stumps, the chapter's objective was to complete the overall cleanup and stand up the tombstones if size permitted. Many members attended the work day and pickup load after pickup load of branches, shingles, boards and other debris were collected and hauled off. Also, many tombstones that had been blown over were set back up. (Gary Noakes, Advisor)

ACTION LINES

- Learn to write "want" when you mean it, not "won't."
- Give out FFA WEEK schoolbook covers. A new item for 1983.
- Put *National FUTURE FARMER* magazines in the dentist's office.
- Buy a used file cabinet.
- Christmas present ideas from you: homemade grapevine wreaths; bundles of firewood for senior citizens; make up packets of grain for feeding birds or squirrels; cut fresh pine boughs or holly; or a call-me-anytime-you-need-help promissory note.
- Make extra money by selling house plants you grew.
- Take some extra munchies along.
- Offer a compliment on his good tackle in the game.
- Clean up behind the machine shed.



SERVE YOUR COUNTRY AND GET \$15,200 FOR COLLEGE. YOU'LL BE IN GOOD COMPANY.

Last year, 90,000 high school graduates joined the Army. Some came for the challenge. Some, for the excitement. Some, for the new Army College Fund.

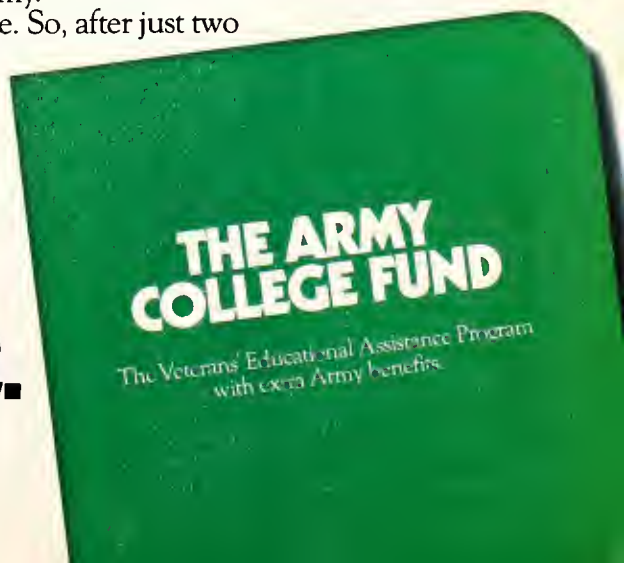
The Army College Fund is a smart way for today's high school graduate to help pay for tomorrow's college education. You can join it, upon qualifying, when you join the Army.

For every dollar you put in, Uncle Sam puts in five. Or more. So, after just two years in the Army, you could have up to \$15,200 for college. After three years, you could even have up to \$20,100.

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Trophies To Last A Lifetime

Although Jeff Peek's dream fell one step short, the skills he picked up along the way will last him a long, long time.

By Michael Wilson

THIS is the story of a young man with a dream; a dream he worked hard for yet never saw materialize.

And yet, one dream's end doesn't mean failure. Success isn't always measured by the trophies on the wall, but by the benefits and skills picked up along the way.

For years Jeff Peek, 22-year-old row crop farmer from West Limestone, Alabama, dreamed of becoming FFA's Star Farmer of America—the top American Farmer degree recipient in the field of production agriculture. It's one of the highest honors an FFA member can receive.

Jeff came closer than most—so close, in fact, he earned second place in the Southern Region last year after having been selected to represent the state as Star Farmer candidate.

Of course, not everyone can be the winner. And although Jeff never became Star Farmer, he certainly can't be considered a loser, either. As a result of his dream, Jeff gained management, marketing and record keeping skills that will last a lifetime. His story proves one revealing and vital fact: FFA competition for awards can be exciting, but medals eventually get dusty; skills last a lifetime. The "trophies" Jeff earned will now prove vital as he steps into the role of full-time farmer in the midst of economic recession.

"I think it was in seventh grade," Jeff says, smiling at the recollection. "Mr. Jackson, (now retired) our ag teacher, let us watch those films on the Star Farmers of America."

"I remember thinking: 'If I could just win Star Farmer—that would really be something!'" he says with a reflective tone.

"And really, that's what I worked for the last several years," he continues. "I realized it was a long shot,

but it's something you work for. One of the stars in that film hit pretty close to home, the way they got started. That became my ambition, to make Star Farmer," he says then adds quietly:

"I guess I got closer than most . . ."

Although his dream fell one step short, Jeff is taking advantage of those new leadership and production agriculture skills. He started out with six acres of cotton as a ten-year-old on the Peek farm, and each year earned more responsibility from his father Donal. He now works in a 60-40 partnership on 950 acres of soybeans partially double-cropped with wheat. The Peeks also rotate about 200 acres of corn and milo and no-till most of the double-crop bean acreage. He now owns over 200 acres and has invested in several thousand dollars' worth of farm equipment.

Jeff's crop production talents have not been ignored. In addition to earning the American Farmer degree and serving as his state's Star Farmer candidate, Jeff earned top honors as the Southern Region Crop Production winner in 1978. He earned second in the state a year later in Soil and Water Conservation for his efforts to re-do and improve waterways, terraces and effective use of cover crops. This year Jeff was named Alabama Future Farmer of the year.

Jeff is also involved in farm real estate, buying and selling large parcels of land. In 1981 he received his private pilot's certificate which he hopes will become "beneficial in my agribusiness career as my farming operation grows."

"There will be occasions when I need to attend various meetings in distant places for such things as equipment sales, auctions and crop improvement expositions," he says. "As my farming



Jeff's new goal is even more challenging than becoming Star Farmer: a successful career in production agriculture.

operation increases I feel that this would be a great asset from the time-factor standpoint."

Jeff's plan for a growing operation is based on careful planning and consideration. he knows current economic factors have made it more and more difficult to survive in the farming game, but still remains optimistic.

"As long as people are going to eat, we're going to be in business," he says. "I think there are good years ahead, but not for another two or three years before we get out of this slump. We're going to have to tighten our belt and use our resources financially.

"Prices aren't hanging in there with inflation," Jeff continues. "Ten years ago we were selling beans for \$4-\$5 and an average-sized tractor was \$10,000. Now you're selling beans for \$6 ten years later and you're paying \$30,000 to \$35,000 for a tractor."

Of all the "trophies" Jeff gained from his race for Star Farmer, he says none are more important than good marketing and management skills.

"Management and marketing are going to make the difference between whether a person makes or breaks right now. The ones who aren't managing right or selling right in the next few years are going to go broke," he predicts.

"That's the biggest problem we face: selling the crops we make. We've proved to ourselves we can make the crops year after year, but we're not getting the benefit of the market."

One management technique Jeff uses to stay ahead in the farm survival game is simple: he uses his own labor.

"There's none of this hiring four or five people out here and me driving around in the pickup overseeing things—I'm usually out there doing it myself," says Jeff. "When I can do

something, I'm not having to pay someone else; and on the average, I'll take better care of the equipment." One trip through the Peek's machinery shed filled with sparkling tractors and other field equipment is proof enough. "They shine like Corvettes," says Jeff grinning, "but it pays."

Jeff says FFA has been an important part of promoting the farmer's image. "I think one of the best parts of FFA is informing people about being progressive; what farm life is really like," he states. "Anytime you're working with an investment of \$2-\$300,000 I think you've got to be progressive. Farming isn't like it was 50 years ago—it isn't coming out here with a mule and scratcher anymore."

Jeff's farming pursuits, anchored by

"Management and marketing are going to make the difference between whether a person makes or breaks right now. The ones who aren't managing right or selling right in the next few years are going to go broke."

simple but direct philosophies, have helped him establish firm roots in the agriculture production world. His aim over the next two years is to work towards an equal partnership with his father, eventually taking over the entire operation as his father nears retirement age. And although times are tough right now, those skills Jeff developed in vo-ag and FFA will profit him well as he works toward a constant and even more challenging goal—success as a row crop farmer. No one can say now if he'll make it—but his "trophies" are being put to use daily, and will be available for a lifetime to come. ●●●



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The Joke Page

Sam the plumber was very upset one night when he heard screams coming from his vegetable garden. The next evening he investigated and found the noise was coming from the section where he planted his beets. First thing in the morning he phoned the local horticulturist to come and listen to his veggies. When the specialist arrived, he found the house dark and assumed Sam was not home. He went back to the garden anyway, got out his stethoscope and listened to the beets. Suddenly a man demanded, "What are you doing in my garden?"

"Aren't you Sam the plumber who called me this morning?" asked the specialist.

"No, I'm Johnson the plumber. Sam lives on the next block."

"Gosh," said the plant expert, "I've been listening to the beets of a different plumber."

Holly Brown
Darlington, Missouri

Did you hear about the mad scientist who crossed a lollipop with a wrist watch and got a clock that takes a licking and keeps on ticking?

Barbara Brent
Jayess, Mississippi



An elderly man stopped at a hearing-aid center and asked about prices.

"We have them from \$25,000 down to \$1.50," the salesman said.

"What's the \$25,000 one like?"

"Well, it translates three languages."

"And what about the one for \$1.50?"

"It's this button attached to a string," said the salesman, pushing it across the counter.

"How does it work?" the man asked.

"It doesn't," the salesman replied. "But if you put the button in your ear and the string in your pocket, you'll be surprised how loud people will talk."

Joe Bradshaw
Maud, Texas

A Texas farmer was having trouble keeping hunters off his property. He posted "No Trespassing" signs, then "No Hunting" signs. He even put up a sign warning "Stay Off or Get Shot." None of these signs was effective. But he got excellent results when he posted his place as "Copperhead Sanctuary."

Dwayne Downing
Kuttawa, Kentucky

There was once a poor old farmer who had a son. The son went out into the world and made his fortune. Some time later the poor old farmer died, but his wife didn't have enough money to bury him and clothe him, too. So she asked the rich son to help out. He sent her \$15. A couple of months later he wrote home that he kept getting a bill for \$15 every month and wanted to know why. The farmer's wife wrote back and said, "All I could do with \$15 was to rent a tuxedo."

Elizabeth Jett
Henderson, Texas

One night a breeze came up while an orchestra was giving an open-air rendition of Schubert's Ninth Symphony. During the intermission most of the musicians spent their time tying down their music to their stands. The bass players, however, went to a nearby lounge for a few fast drinks. When the conductor returned to the podium, he was dismayed to find in the last half of the ninth, the scores were tied and the basses were loaded.

Ken Walters
Mount Olive, Mississippi

A young farmer was showing his latest girlfriend around the haystacks and buildings. At one point he stopped, slipped his arm around her waist, nodded toward a cow and a bull who were nuzzling noses in a nearby pasture.

"See that," he whispered, "animals know how to do things right. I kind of fancy doing the same thing myself."

"Go ahead," she cooed, "It's your cow."

Doris Anderson
Stevens, Pennsylvania

Principal to harried second-grade teacher, "Miss Johnson, you simply cannot send thank-you notes to your pupils when they stay home because of illnesses!"

Virnon Holden
Reeds, Missouri

"Why did you steal this man's suitcase?" the judge asked the thief.

"It was only a joke, your honor," answered the thief.

"How far did you carry the suitcase?" "I just carried it to my home a few blocks away," said the thief.

"Thirty days in jail," the judge said, "for carrying the joke too far!"

Becky Lingold
Bunnell, Florida

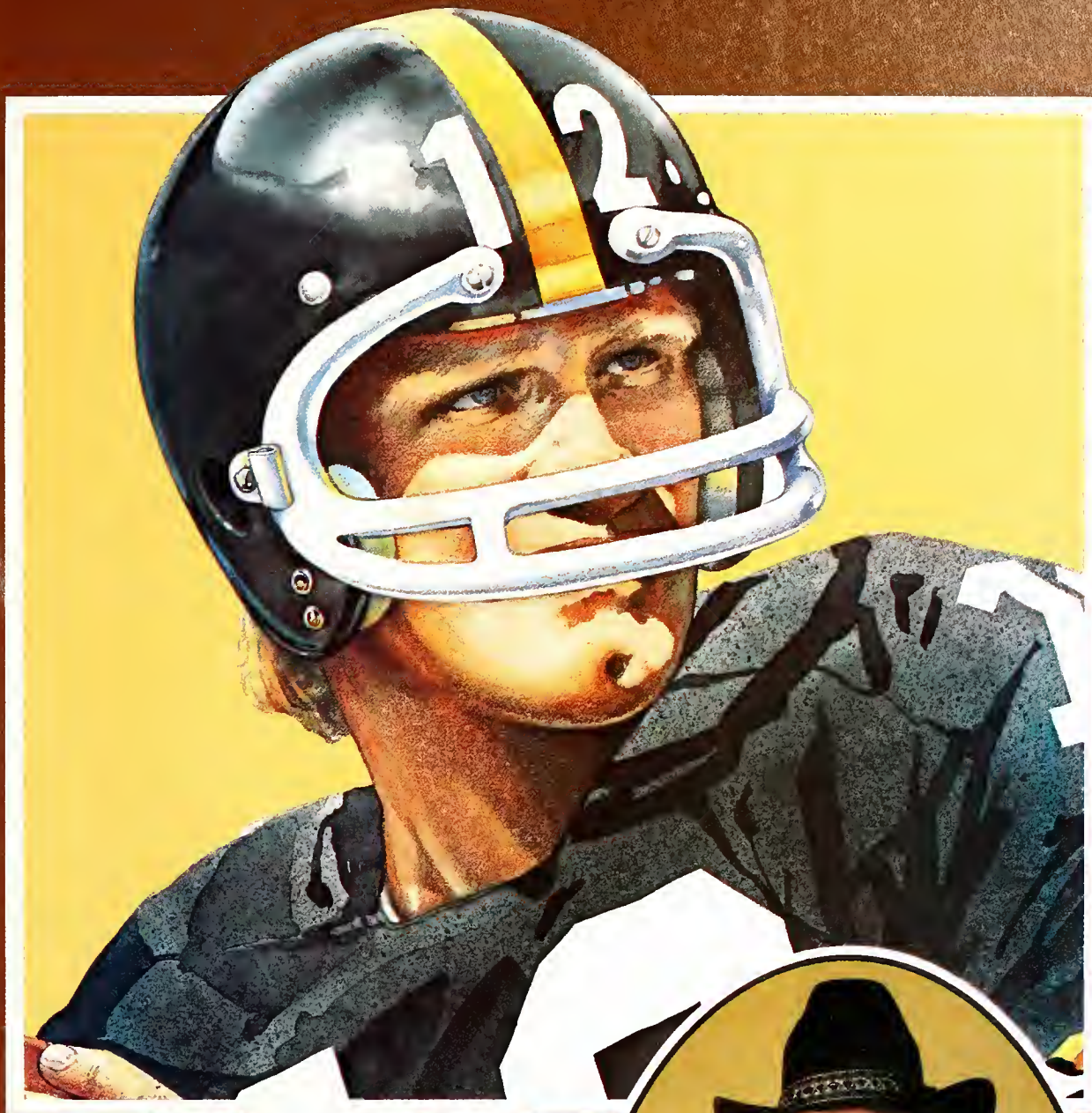
Once upon a time, a king and a queen wanted to go for a ride. So they got into their car and drove off. After going a good distance, they had a flat and were stranded.

The moral of this story is: Never let a king and queen go without a jack.

Bobby Hudson
Caldwell, Kentucky

Charlie, the Greenhand





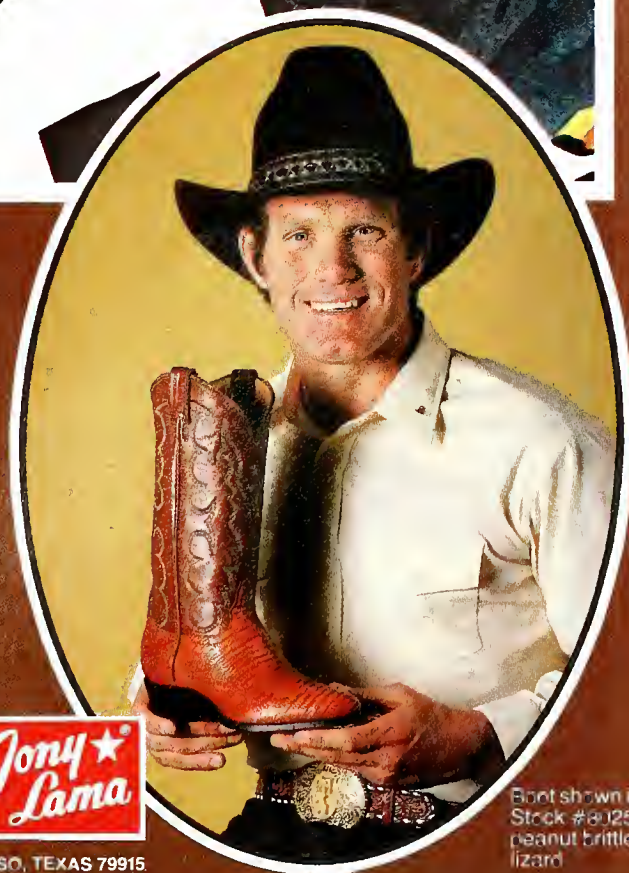
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